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Record breaking steel mosaic goes on show in Burford

Three million pieces of history

By Eva Astreinidou

A WORLD-RECORD mosaic made of three million tiny pieces of steel is on tour in Oxfordshire to remember a turning point in the history of England.

Michael Linton, 63, a retired steel knitter, is exhibiting the piece until August 30 at the exhibition at Burford School in Burford.

The 350kg medieval mosaic holds the Guinness World Record as the largest steel mosaic and depicts the 'untold stories' of the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

The masterpiece took Michael more than three decades to complete, with help from his daughter Rachael.

Rachael said: "My father took 33 years creating this incredible piece of art and I feel it deserves to be exhibited so that as many people can see and enjoy it.

"It's a stunning visual reference for anyone interested in learning about 11th century medieval history, our history of England. I feel very happy to be able to provide a resource like that.

"We would like to keep it perpetually on tour so that people can enjoy the art and history of the piece."

Michael began making the mosaic in 1979, and in 2001 he and his daughter researched and drew the scenes from 1066 on to the steel pieces.

Their eight-metre 'finale' depicts events leading up to the crowning of William the Conqueror and Christmas Day in 1066.

A further 22-metre section which took eight years to complete, tells the stories of the Battle of Fulford and the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Speaking of the choice of the subject matter, Gillian, Michael's wife, said: "History has always been something we have been fascinated by."

She added: "It's been a part of our lives for so long – but it is from people's responses to it that we realise what a really amazing legacy it would leave behind."

The piece, which was shipped from New Zealand, where the couple were living prior to the tour, will be travelling to Oxford in early September and the family hope the tour will continue across the UK until 2020.

The exhibition is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Michael tells visitors about the 30 year project

Michael Linton and his labour of love (Picture: Justin Lycett) and, below, Harold is shot in the eye. Above, Michael and wife Gillian

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Advertising - 01235 511700
enquiries@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
Newsdesk - 01235 516931
news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
Group Editor:
Karen Neville
01235 516931
karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk
Chief Reporter:
Adam Flinn
01235 516933
adam@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
Reporters:
George Welch
01235 516912
george@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
Samantha McGregor
01235 516908
sam@taylornewspapers.co.uk
Eva Astreinidou
01235 516932
eva@taylornewspapers.co.uk
Matthew Brown
01235 516930
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Good, but A&E times must improve

By George Welch

NHS bosses have rated the health body that organises the delivery of medical services in Oxfordshire as 'good'.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG), which buys local healthcare services on behalf of everyone living in the county, was assessed by NHS England.

It found the OCCG had made improvements on early intervention for people with severe mental issues during 2016/17 but must improve A&E waiting times.

The OCCG was congratulated on reducing waiting times for tests and diagnosis and for its cancer two-week wait and 31 day first treatment policies.

Oxfordshire has also been rated in the top 10 in the south of England for the diagnosis of and care for people with dementia.

However, NHS England, which sets the priorities and direction of the health service, has also advised on a number of improvements.

The OCCG must improve A&E waiting times and the time some patients have to wait before they start certain treatments.

It must also urgently address delayed transfers of care and continuing problems around people – usually frail and elderly – who are stranded in hospital when they no longer need to be there.

OCCG chief executive David Smith said the group is pleased with the assessment following a "particularly challenging year" which has included a controversial upheaval of Oxfordshire's NHS.

He said: "We know there is a lot of work still to do and we are mindful of the improvements we must make.

"However, we are ambitious in wanting to tackle the many challenges we face in the coming year and into the future."

NHS England assesses commissioners across the country on how they are contributing to the five year forward view – a vision of how health services can change, improve and work in the future.

Rachel Pearce, director of commissioning operations at NHS England, said clinical commissioning groups in the south central area produced "continued improvement" on 2015/16.

Assessments for diabetes, learning disabilities and maternity are expected to follow later in the year.

Decisions on plans to transform healthcare in the county will be made at OCCG's board meeting on August 10.

For more information on the proposals, visit tinyurl.com/ycar2eyt

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Calls to rethink bus ban in Queen Street

NATIONAL passenger groups are lobbying the government to overturn a ban on buses in Queen Street, criticising the county council for 'creating more congestion and pollution'.

Bus Users UK has written to the Transport Secretary Chris Grayling urging him to overturn the ban in time for the opening of the Westgate in October.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) decided to go ahead with an 18-month experimental ban on buses and taxis in the Oxford street at a cabinet meeting last month.

After the county council and bus operators reached an impasse regarding the proposed closure in the heart of the city, its fate is now in the hands of Mr Grayling's department.

Bus Users, which campaigns for better services and works to protect the interests of bus/coach users, has now written to Mr Grayling challenging the county council's decision.

Chief executive Claire Walters said: "What particularly concerns us is that bus passengers will be paying more, as operators seek to recover some of their costs, on journeys that will actually be taking longer.

"This will put people off using the bus and encourage those who can drive to use their cars, which will simply add to the congestion and pollution already being created."

She added: "There is no evidence whatsoever to support this decision and we are urging Oxford County Council to overturn the ban."

In the letter, which has also been sent to DfT under-secretary Jesse Norman, the organisation raised concerns that the ban would make journey times longer, adding 149,000 unnecessary miles to bus routes and creating pollution and congestion elsewhere.

And Bus Users has the support of Confederation of Passenger Transport, which claims to be "recognised by government as the voice of the bus and coach industry".

Its chief executive, Simon Posner, said: "Anything which makes bus travel less attractive, and which deters passengers from using local services, will increase congestion and be detrimental to the local environment."

Hospital: We had no choice but to move patients out

By Eva Astreinidou

HEALTH chiefs had 'no alternative' but to move patients at the John Radcliffe Hospital after a safety review it ordered identified the trauma unit as a fire risk.

Fifty-two beds will be moved tomorrow to other wards after independent experts pinpointed 'serious and embedded fire safety issues' in the building, which was opened 15 years ago.

These included problems with cladding, inadequate fire breaks between floors and the difficulties in evacuating patients.

The NHS trust that runs the hospital is planning to replace the cladding, and address other safety concerns – all of which could take up to 12 months to carry out, according to a spokesperson.

An extraordinary board meeting of the Oxford University Hospital Foundation Trust decided last Thursday to move the beds after it received the results of the safety assessment from Bicester-based Trenton Fire in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

It said the 52 beds would not be moved within the hospital until August 4 to allow enough time to prepare 'new locations appropriately' and work to identify beds in the community for patients to help free up beds at the hospital.

Meantime it put in place measures to ensure the safety of trauma unit patients, such as regular patrols by fire wardens.

Rosalind Pearce, executive director at the watchdog group Healthwatch Oxfordshire, praised the trust for its actions.

She said: "I am pleased that OUH have reacted so quickly.

"What we don't need is patients [feeling] scared. What we need is to know that a high standard of care will continue."

Asked if the move would cause delays for patients awaiting routine surgery, she said the trust could be looking to open up a ward that was previously not being used.

She said the main issue is the 'fast-tracking' of patients on to community beds, adding: "Is there enough capacity in the community to take those patients? And will they have appropriate care?"

Dr Prit Buttar, chair of Oxfordshire Local Medical Committee, which represents GPs and practices in the county, said: "The problem would be if there is an overall reduction of beds and capacity. We are not in a position to confirm this either way."

But he added: "What would be the alternative? To recognize there is a fire safety risk but say 'we are not able to deal with this'? You have to deal with it."

Dr Bruno Holthof, chief executive of OUH, said: "Our highest priority is the patients in our care and our staff who are dedicated in their care for those patients. We will implement any changes necessary to ensure that our patients are safe."

In the days after the Grenfell Tower disaster on June 14, the trust was asked by NHS bosses to assess risks to buildings on four main sites in Oxfordshire, giving priority to buildings that housed inpatients.

The office areas at the John Radcliffe will require new cladding to be put on the roof, but they have been deemed relatively low risk and are safe for workers to remain while the work is carried out.

From cookery to chainsaws at Countryfile Live show

THOUSANDS are expected to head to BBC Countryfile Live this weekend to enjoy talks on the countryside, join in adventures, and watch a nail biting lumberjack competition.

The event is returning to Blenheim Palace for its second year from Thursday to Sunday.

The event will have something for everyone, including conversations on the countryside, foodie delights, as well as Stihl Timbersports, a nerve wracking international lumberjack competition, on Saturday.

The thrill-seeking event sees the top 16 UK Timbersports athletes compete across six axe and chainsaw contests.

Witney man Darryn Reilly, 44, is one of the athletes taking part. He said: "I am very nervous – I have only just learned to do the last two challenges."

He added: "Whenever I compete I am absolutely buzzing afterwards, especially if I win."

Less extreme entertainment on offer over the weekend includes a chance to sample and buy food from tenant producers and watch TV chefs in the farmyard cookery theatre.

Families can also enjoy a 'mini adventure' in the magical 50 things woodland play area.

Temporary road restrictions will be in place throughout the event-packed weekend as well as a new 2,000-space car park.

Stagecoach have also announced they will be running two shuttle buses from Oxford & Hanborough station direct to Blenheim Palace.

A new traffic system will also see Upper Campsfield Road closed southbound towards Bladon roundabout from 8am to noon on all four days.

Park Lane northwards of Bladon Road will also be closed from 6am to 10pm each day with access only for residents and event vehicles.

A 30mph speed limit will be in place on the A44 from Sandy Lane roundabout to Woodstock from 6am today to 11pm on Sunday.

Drivers will not be able to turn right on the A44 northbound carriageway into Begbroke Science Park or at the Langford Lane signalised junction.

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Lesley's oar-some achievement

Lesley Foden enjoyed some well-earned champagne back in Essex having sailed round St Ives among other places Pictures: Mark Foden

By Matthew Brown

'EVERYTHING she imagined it would be and much more' is how intrepid rower Lesley Foden has described her round Britain challenge.

Setting out from Burnham-on-Crouch in Essex on June 3, the crew of five rowed 1,800 miles clockwise around Britain, and had to contend with high winds and 25-metre waves as well as enjoying stunning sunsets and sunrises and having dolphins for company.

Lesley, who trained at Abingdon Rowing Club, finished back in Essex on July 29.

"I would have to say it was absolutely everything I had imagined it would be and probably a lot more as well. "It was jolly, jolly very hard work and strangely, the things that were hard work weren't necessarily the physical bits," the 60-year-old said. "It was really the psychological part of it which I found hard as well."

The married mother-of-one said there were many highlights to the row: "We saw dolphins everyday and they were just beautiful. One day we had 20 or 30 of them around the boat and flipping in the air and it was just fantastic, the birds too, I think we saw a whale, jelly fish and fish, just wonderful, wonderful wildlife.

"There were some amazing sights, seeing the whole coastline of Britain from the outside looking in isn't something that you normally do and it was fantastic."

However, there were some hairy moments along the way and none more so than during the last week when they were trying to get into Hartlepool Harbour at midnight with strong winds and 25-metre waves, at the end of a tough day.

"We couldn't get in [to the harbour] and they [the waves] were really up above us, they were crashing into the boat, that was a real capsize moment, we got there and stayed upright, by the time we got there, I was so exhausted," Lesley explained.

Living on the eight-metre boat was also "very tough and brutal" with Lesley surviving on a diet of oatcakes, baby-bell cheese, nuts, raisins and water, she added: "It was row, eat, sleep, repeat."

Not to mention the bruises from being thrown about in rough seas.

The crew usually rowed in pairs in two-hour shifts, day and night with these were arduous as Lesley explained: "I would say we had no more than 40 hours of wind behind us for the whole journey so for 54 days, we went straight through the headwind and that just meant we were rowing so hard all of the time."

Lesley who lives in East Woodhay has already raised £3,500 for the RNLI and said her marvellous achievement had not quite sunk in.

"When I finished, I just felt overwhelmingly calm," she said. "I still feel quite numb, I keep thinking about it but I haven't had that little moment where I've thought 'woah, I've done it.'"

Threats to park staff after wolf shot dead

STAFF at a wildlife park have received threats after they had to shoot a wolf that had escaped from the premises.

According to representatives from Cotswold Wildlife Park, the wolf managed to get out of the enclosure where her partner and five cubs were kept, and was shot by staff after she was found out of reach of a tranquiliser gun on July 21.

One week after the incident, a spokesperson said police received reports of threats made against staff via voicemail and email.

They added: "Uniformed patrols have been taking place in the area as part of the investigation, and to provide reassurance."

In the outcome of the park's investigation, staff said no access had been left unlocked or open, but that there was a low reading on the voltage of the fence around the wolf enclosure.

Further tests on-site proved that the fence energiser had developed a fault, which is now being investigated by the manufacturers.

In a statement, managing director Reggie Heyworth said: "At no point during this incident were any of our visitors in any danger. The safety and wellbeing of all our visitors is our first priority.

"We are confident that this incident was an isolated case and that the replacement equipment, combined with an even more intensive electric fence-testing regime, will ensure that our wolf enclosure will provide a safe and secure home for our wolves."

Earlier this year Ember, *pictured*, had her first litter of cubs, the first to be born at the park in its 47-year history.

Mr Heyworth added: "Ash, our male wolf, is displaying encouraging 'natural' behaviour as a single parent to his 10-week-old cubs, who are close to being fully weaned.

"We remain confident that the cubs will continue to grow from strength to strength, that Ember's genetic heritage will endure, and that her life, though short, will have been worthwhile."

After the shooting last month, a representative from the park said they were left 'devastated' after 'a very difficult time'.

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Comedian stands up to blisters to complete trek

COMEDIAN Bill Bailey battled blisters and the British summer elements to raise £10,000 for a cancer charity.

Pouring rain, strong winds and plummeting temperatures failed to deter the funnyman as he trekked 100 miles along the Ridgeway last week.

It all went to plan – apart from having to walk a day barefoot due to blisters – as the 53-year-old completed the journey and has, so far, raised £10,140 for Stand Up To Cancer.

Bill had a loyal band of supporters along the way and, although comedian Jo Brand was ill and Lee Mack couldn't join the quest, Sean Lock and Martin Trenaman did show their faces in support.

There for the trek in its entirety was Bill's wife Kris and friends from different parts of the world, including Denmark, Australia and Japan, who had flown in especially to join him.

Bill, who lost his mum to cancer, took on the six-day challenge back to front.

He said: "I love the route. It's just stunning – a beautiful bit of old England which is surprisingly remote."

Going east-to-west instead, Bill began his walk at the crack of dawn on Monday last week just before the start of the Ridgeway on Dunstable Downs.

The comic and his team of supporters arrived in Watlington last Tuesday before continuing to Streatley the following day.

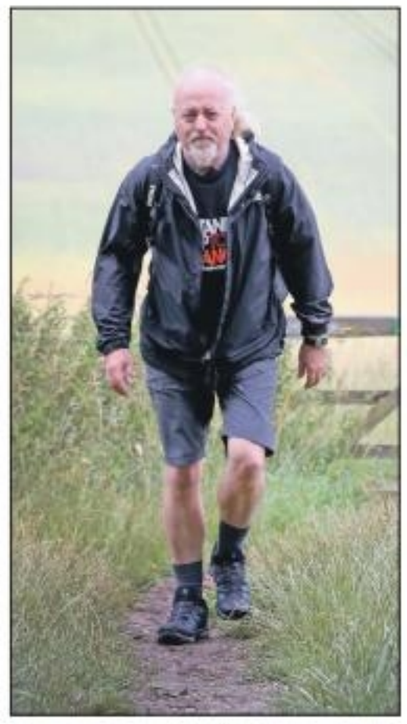
The adventure ended at Avebury stone circle in Wiltshire on Saturday.

Lynn Daly, spokeswoman for Cancer Research UK, said: "Bill and his team did brilliantly well, making it through 100 miles of rain, wind, aching muscles and blisters.

"They have raised a huge sum for Stand Up To Cancer which will make a significant contribution to helping to get game-changing new treatments to patients faster.

"We hope others will now follow Bill's lead and get active – not necessarily walking 100 miles but choosing their own way to help beat cancer sooner."

Fundraising money is still mounting up and to offer support, text BILL5 to donate £5 to 70404, BILL10 to donate £10 to 70404, or donate online at tinyurl.com/y82ky8ss.



Above, Bill with fellow comedian Sean Lock during the journey, and top, trekking along the Ridgeway

Mums-to-be asked to join drug trials

By Eva Astreinidou

PREGNANT women will be asked to take part in drug trials after decades of research into finding a cure for serious viral infection in babies.

Patients in the women's centre at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital could help in the quest for a vaccine to protect babies from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which kills 200,000 children around the world every year.

The virus causes infections in the lungs and breathing passages in infants, children and adults, and despite 50 years of research, a cure has not been found yet.

The study, which is being carried out by Oxford University and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been welcomed by the Abingdon-based Norris family, who experienced the effects of the disease first-hand after their four-month-old son Sebastian was hospitalised in October last year.

Sebastian was admitted to a children's ward with bronchiolitis and six hours later transferred to children's intensive care, where he remained on breathing support for three days.

Mum Claire said: "It was the worst week of my life. Through your pregnancy and even now, you think about big things like meningitis, you never think something as simple as a respiratory infection can be so damaging."

The numbers of children admitted to UK hospitals with RSV continues to rise year on year.

Globally, RSV is second only to malaria as a killer of children aged one to 12 months, mostly in lower income countries.

Symptoms start with a runny rose and cough, and in the long term can lead to wheezing or even asthma.

Chief investigator Dr Matthew Snape said: "An effective RSV vaccine given to pregnant women could prevent thousands of babies a year having to be admitted to hospital in the UK and around the world and has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives."

The investigational vaccine is designed to generate antibodies that then pass to the baby in the womb.

The antibodies will alert the immune system and attempt to destroy them or stop them from replicating.

Healthy pregnant women from Oxfordshire due to give birth between September and December will be asked if they want to take part, as babies born at these times are at higher risk of RSV infection.

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Estate agent's feet help raise £26k for Footsteps

By Eva Astreinidou

A MAN from Oxford has raised £26,000 for a children's disability charity after two years of fundraising.

Estate agent James Gesner collected the funds for Footsteps Foundation by organising golf tournaments at Hadden Hill in Didcot and by running the London Marathon.

He set himself the challenge of organising the long fundraising campaign after visiting the specialist children's physiotherapy centre in Dorchester-on-Thames.

On running the London Marathon this year James said: "At over £400 per mile I knew I had to keep on going – I just thought of the kids I have met at Footsteps.

"Some of them are really severely disabled but they are really brave, they always have a smile on their faces despite life's difficulties."

Footsteps Foundation manager Maggie Davies said: "James is an inspiration.

Above, the golf day at Hadden Hill, and right, having completed the London Marathon

James with a cheque for more than £7,000 that he gave to Footsteps last year

"With four children of his own and running his own successful estate agency, he still finds time to put in a huge amount of effort for our small charity.

"We get no funding from the government or the NHS and rely on amazing supporters like James."

Around 12 years ago, the founder of the charity, Pip Hoyer Millar, found specialist therapy equipment known as spider in Poland and took her daughter Minty, who has cerebral palsy, for treatment.

After Minty became much more mobile, Pip decided to trial this therapy in the UK.

Footsteps Foundation was set up to help fund the therapy for those on lower incomes.

Footsteps has been helping disabled children improve their strength and mobility and has provided over 80,000 hours of specialist therapy for disabled kids.

Man's face cut in street robbery

A MAN was threatened with a knife and cut on the face before having money stolen near a supermarket in Banbury.

Police are looking for witnesses following the robbery on July 17 at 11.10pm.

The victim, a 31-year-old, was walking past the entrance of Morrisons supermarket on Swan Close Road, when he saw a man walking on the road towards him from the direction of Tramway Industrial Estate.

As the man approached the victim, he pulled a light brown wooden handle, which appeared to be a knife, from either his waistband or sleeve.

The offender grabbed the victim and threatened him. The victim offered his MP3 player and other items but the offender continued to threaten him and then cut the victim's face, leaving four cuts on his chin and jaw.

The offender then took the victim's wallet and removed cash from it, before walking off towards Upper Windsor Street.

The offender is described as a white man in his 20s, thin, about 6ft tall, with a 'pasty complexion' and marks on his face.

He was believed to have been wearing a grey top, and dark trousers worn over the top of work-style boots which had rounded toe caps.

The upper part of his top was pulled up over his face across his nose.

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Homes protected as flood work ends

By George Welch

Flooding at Stockleys Road in Northway in 2012

FLOOD prevention work protecting 110 homes in Northway and Marston has been completed.

Work on the £2.2million alleviation scheme began in November last year and the finishing touches on temporary flood water storage areas, channel realignment and natural embankments were applied last week.

Northway and Marston have been struck by flash flooding in the past due to their close proximity to Peasmoor Brook and the Headington Hill Tributary – previously it only took as little as half an hour of torrential rain to cause flooding.

But now, in the event of torrential rain, water will be channelled into three temporary flood water storage areas, and then released into the drainage system and waterways at a pace they can cope with.

Councillor John Tanner, board member for a Clean and Green Oxford, thanked residents for their patience and said: "We know how horrendous it is having your home under water and now it is much less likely that homes in Northway and Marston will suffer from flash flooding."

Oxford City Council secured £600,000 of funding from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) growth fund as well as £1.6m from the Environmental Agency to deliver the northeast Oxford project.

Nigel Tipple, chief executive of OxLEP, which has allocated £25.85m to flood management schemes in the county, said: "Locally, this investment is significant and – across the rest of Oxfordshire – OxLEP is committed to funding projects that mitigate against flood risk, potentially affecting businesses and homes in the county."

Protective fencing at Northway Community Field and Court Place Farm Recreation Ground will remain in place until the end of August to allow new grass seeds and wildflower seeds to establish.

Trees and shrubs will then be planted across both sites in the autumn.

The new FA-compliant and full-size football pitch in Northway Community Field will open in January.

Picture: Alterna2 / Gabri Guerrero

Oxford band up for Mercury Prize alongside Ed Sheeran and Stormzy

OXFORD band Glass Animals are in the running for the prestigious Mercury Prize this year.

The indie rock foursome, who grew up in the city, have been nominated for their second album How To Be A Human Being.

Glass Animals took to Twitter to say that they were 'speechless' to have made the shortlist and thanked supporters for helping them get where they are today.

The quartet shot to fame with their debut album Zaba in 2014.

They are up against stiff opposition, with other shortlisted acts including Ed Sheeran, Alt-J, The XX and Stormzy.

Fellow Oxfordshire-based acts Radiohead, Supergrass and Foals have been nominated for the Mercury Prize in the past – but Glass Animals would be the first from the county to win the award.

Abingdon-formed Radiohead have been nominated four times (1997, 2001, 2003, 2008), making them the most-shortlisted band in the Mercury Prize's history.

Supergrass were beaten by Portishead after being nominated in 1995 while Foals were pipped to the award by The XX in 2010 and James Blake in 2013.

Led by lead singer Dave Bayley, Glass Animals have performed at global festivals including Coachella, Glastonbury, Reading/Leeds and Lollapalooza.

Their latest album peaked at number 23 in the charts following its release in August last year.

Glass Animals received their radio debut on BBC Radio Oxford's music show BBC Introducing in 2010.

The winner of the prestigious accolade will be announced at an awards show on September 14.

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Fans flock to opening of Oxford United shop

HUNDREDS of fans descended on the new Oxford United store as the Covered Market shop was officially opened last week.

Chairman Darryl Eales and players Kane Hemmings and Josh Ashby did the honours as the new shop opened its doors in the heart of the city on Wednesday last week.

Mr Eales said: "It is a terrific thing for the club and great to be in the centre of Oxford.

"There was a good crowd there [for the opening] and I think it will go from strength to strength."

The new shop is part of the Market Barbers in the Covered Market – easily accessible from the High Street entrances to the market.

As part of the move, season ticket holders can pick up a 20 per cent discount at the barbers.

The store will stock replica kit, leisure wear, scarves, hats, gloves and gifts and will also be selling match tickets.

Initial opening hours are Monday-Friday 10am–5pm with the view to also then open on Saturdays.

Visit oufcshop.co.uk to see what else is on offer online.

Chairman Darryl Eales (third right) opened the new store with players Kane Hemmings and Josh Ashby and shop staff

Charity outstrips fundraising goal

By George Welch

PLAY2GIVE (P2G) is on course to smash its '£10k in 10' appeal target – with five months of the year remaining.

The Didcot-based fundraising group – our charity of the year – has raised £9,500 in the last seven months, meaning it needs just £500 to reach its fundraising target of £10,000 as it celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Founder of the group, 29-year-old Andy Baker, is delighted to have closed in on the target so soon in such a 'special year' – but he's now after another target. The record fundraising effort for P2G came in 2015 when it raised £13,500.

At the same stage in that year, the group hadn't even raised £7,000.

Andy said: "We are going to smash the target. It gives me the motivation to keep going and try and get even more than that.

"It's amazing. We will increase the target – it gets more and more incredible. Who knows what we might get by the end of the year. We want to make this year especially special. People are more inspired [this year]…and there's still more to come."

One of the latest donations to be made to the P2G appeal was from an It's a Knockout event held at Andy's former school, St Birinus School.

He returned to the Didcot school – where his fundraising for the Oxford Children's Hospital began 15 years ago – to see hundreds of Year 7-9 pupils and members of staff take part in the end of school celebration last month.

Pupils got soaked, jumped, crawled, climbed, slid and got very hot as they tackled a giant inflatable assault course as they ducked, dived and threw themselves into a fun end of the summer term.

Andy began raising money as a 14-year-old Year 10 schoolboy at the Mereland Road school in 2003, when he encouraged pupils and teachers to help

THE OXFORD PAPER and Oxfordshire Guardian
Charity of the year 2017
Play2Give

him fundraise towards the children's hospital at the John Radcliffe, which opened in 2007.

St Birinus School has been a huge supporter of P2G over the past year and has helped raise around £2,000. The total raised from the It's a Knockout event hasn't been confirmed.

Head teacher John Marston said: "The amount Andy has raised for his charities is nothing short of astonishing – our current students describe him as an inspiration and this is certainly the case.

"As a school community, we are all exceptionally proud of Andy and his achievements and we look forward to furthering our support as we are only too happy to continue to help such a wonderful cause."

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District shares out £432k grant pot to community causes

By George Welch

FIVE south Oxfordshire play areas are set to receive a facelift as part of a £423,000 boost for community facilities.

The district council has awarded grants to 13 projects to benefit local residents with play areas in Benson, Berinsfield, Hagbourne, Long Wittenham and Little Milton all receiving funding.

Grants have also been awarded for a replacement pavilion in Ewelme and to carry out a much-needed roof replacement at Wallingford Corn Exchange.

Funding will also help pay for replacement facilities at clubs and village halls in Lewknor, Benson, Peppard Stoke Row, Sandford on Thames, Wallingford and Watlington.

Cllr Elizabeth Gillespie, cabinet member for grants at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This funding achieves our goals to make a real difference in our communities across south Oxfordshire, helping ensure existing facilities are upgraded and that new ones become available for residents to use."

The next round of grant funding is now open for applications and the council has still got more than £105,000 available.

Groups with a project that will benefit the local community are urged to contact the district council's grants team on 01235 422644.

Community groups have until September 6 to apply for a minimum of £1,000.

Visit southoxon.gov.uk/grants for more information.

The full awards were:

- Benson Parish Council – £6,050 for play area improvements
- Berinsfield Parish Council – £33,922 for play area improvements
- Corn Exchange Wallingford Ltd and Sinodun Players – £170,000 towards a replacement roof and heating system
- Ewelme Parish Council – £75,000 for the rebuilding of Ewelme Pavilion
- Hagbourne Village Hall – £10,000 for village hall play area improvements
- Lewknor Village Hall – £4,585 for replacement doors
- Long Wittenham Parish Council – £7,291 for play area improvements
- Little Milton Parish Council – £50,000 for play area improvements
- Millstream Day Centre (Benson) – £17,590 for a replacement kitchen
- Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club – £2,765 for a replacement cricket roller
- Sandford on Thames Village Hall – £1,799 for a storage shed
- The Watlington Club – £19,453 for replacement squash court flooring, fire doors and lawn aerator
- Wallingford Rowing Club – £24,882 for replacement boat launching platforms

A youngster gets to pat the nice dinosaur at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Dinosaurs spring monster surprise

VISITORS to two Oxfordshire museums could be forgiven for thinking they had stepped into Jurassic Park last week as they got up close and personal with two terrifying dinosaurs.

A Segnosaurus and baby Triceratops, which are two of the stars of the Dinosaur World show, went for a walkabout at The Oxfordshire Museum, in Woodstock, and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, in Parks Road last Tuesday.

The puppet beasts were on display ahead of their performance in Dinosaur World at the New Theatre in Oxford from August 24 to 26.

During the morning, the Segnosaurus visited the dinosaur garden at The Oxfordshire Museum, where it found Jurassic plants and 168-million-year-old dinosaur footprints excavated from Ardley Quarry in Oxfordshire, and a life-size Megalosaurus.

Carol Anderson, museums service manager, said: "The families thoroughly enjoyed seeing two dinosaurs come face-to-face."

The puppet dinos then stomped to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, where they found skeletons of their ancestors, including the towering T-rex and a Triceratops skull.

A spokesman said: "It was a nice surprise for our visitors – the baby Triceratops meeting our Triceratops was great."

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Homeless facing fines over bags left in shop doorways

By Eva Astreinidou

HOMELESS people have been told they could face fines of £2,500 for leaving their belongings on the streets.

Rough sleepers found legal notices on their bags outside a shop front in Cornmarket Street, Oxford last week telling them to remove their belongings due to 'fire safety'.

The notices warned they could be prosecuted by Oxford City Council for breaching anti-social behaviour laws.

Neo, a homeless man who has chosen to live on the streets for the past 26 years, said the latest move is 'harassment'.

He said the lack of daytime storage options for homeless people has been on the radar for the council for some time.

He said: "I had a meeting two weeks before Christmas to resolve [the issue] and I thought it was a successful meeting but [instead] this is the response."

Previously, Neo has led the way for a petition to reopen Lucy Faithful hostel, a night shelter for homeless people, which was closed due to budget cuts.

Leader of Oxford City Council's Green group, David Thomas, said that using anti social legislation against rough sleepers is 'unreasonable'.

He added: "This is a long term game of cat and mouse. The council have been in effect chasing them around the city but are not able to offer them something better. Imagine living on the streets and having a threat of a fine slapped on to your belongings. It is pretty heavy handed."

According to a spokesperson for the city council, the council was asked by the building company to assist in the removal of the bags because they were blocking fire exit routes.

He said no one was fined as a result of the latest action.

He added: "We take this national homelessness tragedy that is playing out on the streets of our city very seriously; we are very aware of the circumstances of the people on the streets of Oxford, and work very hard with our partners so that no one should have to be homeless."

They said the council spend £1.4 million on homeless services every year.

Youngsters get ready to cut the cake to mark the first birthday of Stagecoach in Faringdon

Performing arts school takes bow

A PERFORMING arts school that encourages students to 'blossom' in Broadway and West End classics is celebrating a showstopping debut year.

Stagecoach Performing Arts Faringdon is celebrating its first year of success and is expanding its facilities to meet increasing demand.

Not only has the school gone from strength to strength but the owner, James Barker, has been awarded the national award for best newcomer for 2017, receiving praise for his and his team's work and for giving 'each student the chance to shine'.

Speaking of the school's successes, James, said: "It was a big risk and worry at first as I was unsure how it would do but I'm delighted to see the success of all of the hard work put in both from the students, myself and the team.

"It's wonderful to be able to deliver educational yet fun and inspiring classes to the talented children of Faringdon and the surrounding community and see their confidence blossom through the arts."

The school is now looking forward to a Mamma Mia workshop hosted by a West End star and their biggest performance yet at Disneyland Paris' prestigious pre-parade in 2018.

James established the school in Faringdon after 21 years in the entertainment business.

It has four classes and is due to open a fifth in September.

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County's Mr Defib in the running for prestigious award

By Eva Astreinidou

A PARAMEDIC from Witney is up for an Everyday Hero award after campaigning to give people access to life-saving machines.

Dick Tracey, otherwise known as Oxfordshire's Mr Defribillator, is nominated in the annual St John Ambulance Everyday Heroes awards that will take place in London on September 28.

The 61-year-old is one of five finalists in the Yours Community First Aid Champion category thanks to his community defibrillator campaign.

Speaking about his nomination, Mr Tracey said: "I feel rather overwhelmed to be a finalist in these awards. It's been such a privilege to work with such wonderful people who are thinking about the wellbeing of the wider community."

Mr Tracey retired after 23 years of service as a paramedic manager with South Central

Award nominee Dick Tracey

Ambulance Service (SCAS) in May.

He pitched the idea to introduce volunteer Community First Responders (CFRs) to the ambulance trust's board of directors 16 years ago.

Three years ago, Mr Tracey decided to get more involved with local communities and launched the public access defibrillator scheme.

Since then, he has shown around 10,000 Oxfordshire residents how to do CPR and use defibrillators.

He said: "Looking back, I do get a sense of pride from everything I've achieved so far, but I think there's a lot more to do.

"The cardiac arrest survival rates are now above the national average in Oxfordshire, but I'd like to see them improve even further. Having public access defibrillators available in communities is key to this, and I get a real kick out of planting the seed of an idea, and seeing the local group or community take hold of it, and bring that project to life."

Mr Tracey also trained 3,000 school children in CPR and how to use a defibrillator in the last year alone.

The Everyday Heroes awards celebrates and honours community heroes, organisations and members of the public who have used first aid to help others.

The awards will be hosted by TV presenter and best-selling author Katie Piper.

High Sheriff Jane Cranston tries her hand at bowls at the Wolvercote Young People's Club

High Sheriff bowled over by care club

THE High Sheriff of Oxfordshire paid a visit to users of a service devoted to supporting disabled jobseekers across the county.

Jane Cranston enjoyed a tea party involving games, sports and music at Wolvercote Young People's Club as employment and wellbeing service OxForward marked UK Employability Day.

The county's High Sheriff, who spoke highly of the service, met some of the service's disabled users at the special event on July 14.

She said: "It is a real pleasure to see people with disabilities having such a good time.

"The work done at OxForward is clearly much valued by the participants many of whom have made a considerable effort to get to Wolvercote from all over Oxford to be part of such a cheerful and entertaining event."

OxForward is run by employment specialists Kennedy Scott in partnership with The Royal Mencap Society and Oxfordshire Sport and Physical Activity.

Around 400 people use OxForward, which offers support to disabled jobseekers, including help with CV writing, wellbeing activities and clubs to help avoid isolation.

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Step into Spring – with COLOURFENCE

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Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

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Competition

CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES - WIN TICKETS TO SEE THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES

LEGENDARY LEGO® artist Nathan Sawaya took London by storm in 2014 with his extraordinary exhibition THE ART OF THE BRICK.

Now he returns to the UK with his brand new exhibition inspired by the world's most popular and enduring Super Heroes and Villains. THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES includes over 120 large scale exhibits made from over 2 million LEGO bricks, all displayed in a purpose built space on London's South Bank.

Nathan Sawaya takes inspiration from DC characters including Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, The Joker and Harley Quinn. Through a series of immersive galleries, the exhibition explores the mythology of DC Comic books and themes of transformation and reinvention, strength versus weakness and good versus evil.

Get ready to find your own inner hero!

London's South Bank, Corner of Upper Ground and Cornwall Rd, London SE1 9PP from 1 March 2017 http://www.aotbdc.co.uk

Closing date: Friday, August 18

Your chance to win!

We have teamed up with THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES to offer our readers the chance to win a family ticket to see this fantastic exhibition.

There are x5 family tickets to be won. To enter answer the following question:

Q: How many LEGO bricks have been used to create THE ART OF THE BRICK: DC SUPER HEROES exhibits?

Over 1 million, over 2 million or over 200,000

Terms and Conditions:

Prize tickets are family tickets for x4 people (x2 adults, x2 children under 16 years old) and are valid for all session times, Monday to Sunday strictly subject to availability. Tickets are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Photographer's apparatus (6)
8 Claws (7)
10 Sinews (7)
11 Disturb (5)
12 Bottles (5)
13 Scent (9)
16 Helper (9)
19 Equipment (5)
20 Gum (5)
22 Sinister (7)
23 Paying attention (7)
24 Most vile (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Overwhelm (6)
2 Watering places (4)
3 Disturbances (13)
5 Annual commemorations (13)
6 Extreme selfishness (8)
7 Estimate (6)
9 Back (5)
14 Water sports (8)
15 Self-possession (6)
17 Rip (5)
18 Muddle (6)
21 Non-alcoholic (4)

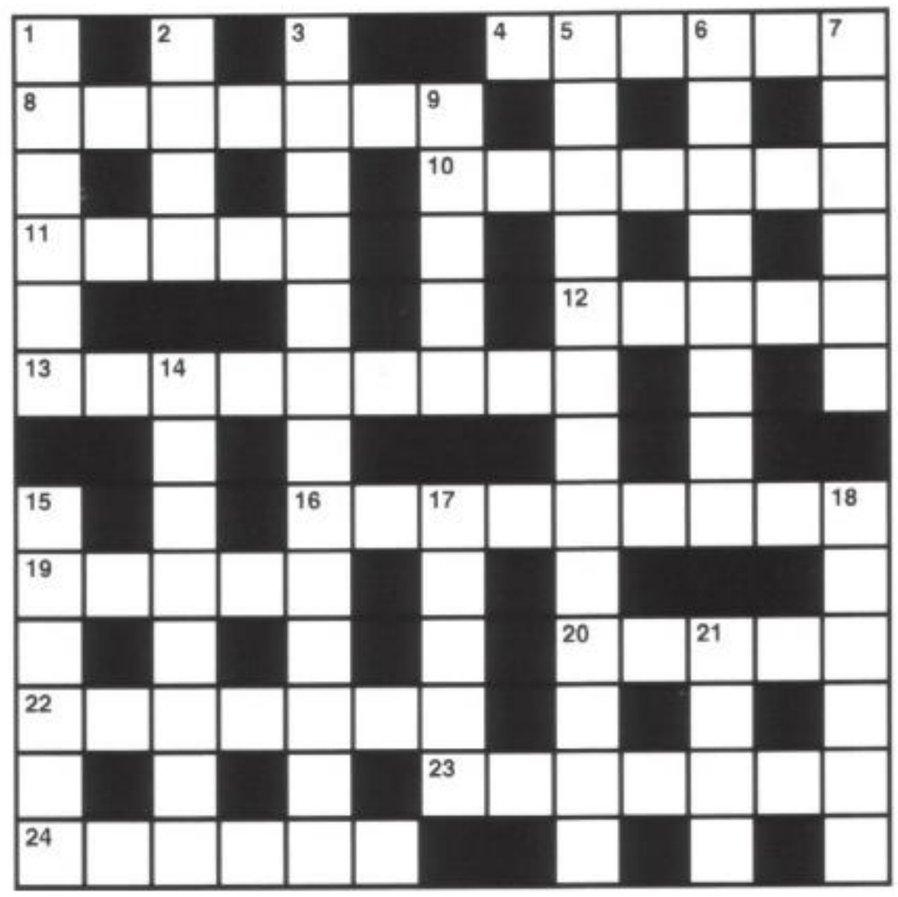
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Investigated professional plot (6)
8 Stayed the course and finished round the old city (7)
10 Knowledgeable after the finish - that's the position (7)
11 It's no joke getting behind at sea (5)
12 Mr Wood, senior, we presume? (5)
13 Getting a rise? (9)
16 Was Robin Hood so bandy, then? (3-6)
19 What's the wild dog doing? (5)
20 Where one is expected to take steps (5)
22 Classical welcome to the right communist is declared (7)
23 Stumped on the golf-course (7)
24 Unruly sets I'd stop (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Praise about a former country (6)
2 Lied about being out of work (4)
3 They provide a firm basis for pressing matters (7,6)
5 Holidays somehow delayed Rolls-Royce test (3-6,4)
6 Fifty in the band are dazzling (8)
7 Dry out the organ - dull (6)
9 She could be an ideal girl (5)
14 Risks about a pound in church (8)
15 He somehow drew with the District Attorney (6)
17 Presumably you don't mind if they are cross (5)
18 Is in awe of many mad dares (6)
21 It can take a hammering (4)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

9				6	3			
2		8			1	3		
	6					7	4	1
	3			1	9		2	7
6			8		7			4
8	9		2	5			1	
4	5	9					6	
		3	4			5		8
			1	2				9

1				8				3
	7						6	
		6	9		5	1		
4	6		5		8		3	7
			3		7			
3	9		1		4		8	5
		2	4		9	3		
	4						9	
5				7				2

					3	6		1
				1		2		
						4	9	
	6				9		1	2
9			6		8			5
2	7		4				3	
	5	9						
		4		7				
6		7	8					

This week's solutions

9	4	1	7	6	3	2	8	5
2	7	8	5	4	1	3	9	6
3	6	5	9	8	2	7	4	1
5	3	4	6	1	9	8	2	7
6	1	2	8	3	7	9	5	4
8	9	7	2	5	4	6	1	3
4	5	9	3	2	1	7	6	8
1	2	3	4	9	6	5	7	2
7	8	6	1	7	5	4	3	9

1	5	4	7	8	6	9	2	3
9	7	8	2	3	1	5	6	4
2	3	6	9	4	5	1	7	8
4	6	1	5	9	8	2	3	7
3	9	7	1	2	4	6	8	5
8	2	5	3	6	7	4	1	9
6	4	3	8	5	2	7	9	1
7	8	2	4	1	9	3	5	6
5	1	9	6	7	3	8	4	2

6	3	9	2	5	4	1	7	8
1	2	4	3	7	6	5	8	9
8	5	9	1	4	2	3	6	7
2	7	8	9	4	5	1	3	6
9	1	3	6	2	8	7	4	5
4	6	5	7	3	9	8	1	2
5	8	1	2	6	7	4	9	3
3	9	6	5	1	4	2	7	8
7	4	2	9	8	3	6	5	1

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Camera 8 Nippers 10 Tendons 11 Upset 12 Vials 13 Fragrance 16 Assistant 19 Plant 20 Resin 22 Ominous 23 Heedful 24 Basset

Down: 1 Engulf 2 Spas 3 Perturbations 5 Anniversaries 6 Egomania 7 Assess 9 Stern 14 Aquatics 15 Aplomb 17 Slash 18 Tangle 21 Soft

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Probed 8 Endured 10 Endwise 11 Stern 12 Elder 13 Ascendant 16 Bow-legged 19 Dingo 20 Dance 22 Averred 23 Stymied 24 Desist

Down: 1 Persia 2 Idle 3 Ironing boards 5 Red-letter days 6 Blinding 7 Dreary 9 Delia 14 Chancels 15 Edward 17 Words 18 Dreads 21 Nail

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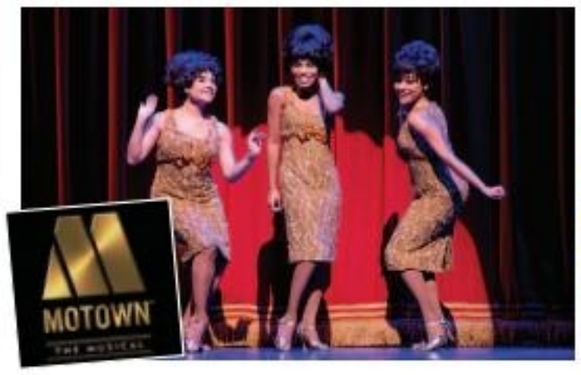

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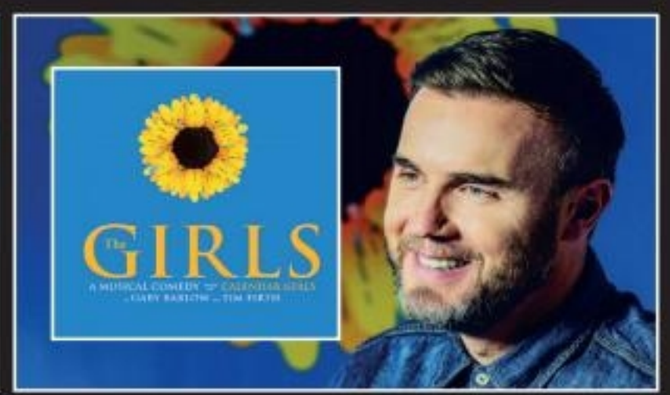

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TAYLORAUG2017

Saturday July 29th

BBC1

Would I Lie to You?, 7.50pm

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Nadiya's British Food Adventure** (S)(R) **12.00 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics** (S) **2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League** (S) **4.30 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.00 FILM Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993) (PG)** (S) **6.45 BBC News** (S) **6.55 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

DAYTIME

7

7.00 Pointless Celebrities Various stars from the sporting world take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (S)(R)
7.50 Would I Lie to You? (S)(R)

8

8.20 Who Dares Wins Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. (S)

9

9.05 Casualty Duffy guides a pair of school-girls through an average hour in the ED. Last in the series. (S)

10

10.00 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.20 FILM Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) (12) The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. (S)

11

AFTER 12

12.15 FILM When in Rome (2009) (PG) Romantic comedy, starring Kristen Bell. (S) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.45** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Proms Extra, 6.50pm

12.00 Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen (S)(R) **1.00 Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java** (S)(R) **2.00 Mastermind** (S)(R) **2.30 University Challenge** (S)(R) **3.00 Only Connect** (S)(R) **3.30 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **4.30 Jessica Ennis-Hill and the Next Generation** (S) **5.00 Live Swimming: World Championships** (S) **6.00 Cycling: Women's Grand Prix** (S) **6.50 Proms Extra** (S)

7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland Paul Murton visits the Isle of Arran. (S)(R)

8.00 Dad's Army Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade. (S)(R)
8.30 All Families Have Secrets – Patrick Gale's Art of Fiction (S)

9.00 Queer as Art The LGBT community's contributions to the arts in Britain during the past 50 years. (S)

10.00 QI XL With Julia Zemiro, Matt Lucas and David Mitchell. (S)
10.45 Imagine – Mapplethorpe A portrait of controversial American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. (S)

12.40 FILM Sleep Tight (2011) (15) Horror, starring Luis Tosar. **2.15** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Catchphrase, 7.15pm

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 ITV Racing: The Opening Show** (S) **10.20 Gok's Lunchbox** (S)(R) **11.15 1000 Heartbeats** (S)(R) **12.15 ITV News** (S) **12.25 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ascot** (S) **4.00 The Chase** (S)(R) **5.00 Little Big Shots USA** (S) **6.00 ITV News; ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.05 ITV News** (S) **6.15 You've Been Framed! Goes Wild!** (S)(R)

7.15 Catchphrase Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (S)

8.00 FILM The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) (12) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally face the dragon that stole their homeland. Part two of the fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen. (S)

11.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
11.25 The Chase Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (S)(R)

12.20 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen

Channel 4

Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights, 6pm

6.10 Mobil 1 The Grid (S) **6.40 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge** (S) **7.05 London Triathlon** (S) **8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **9.00 Frasier** (S)(R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **11.25 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **12.55 Four in a Bed** (S)(R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun** (S)(R) **4.30 Big House, Little House** (S) **5.30 Channel 4 News** (S) **6.00 Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights** (S)

7.30 UEFA Women's Euro 2017 Subsequent programmes are subject to change. (S)

10.00 FILM 47 Ronin (2013) (12) Fantasy adventure, with Keanu Reeves and Hiroyuki Sanada. (S)

12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **1.00** The Last Leg (S)(R) **1.55** Hollyoaks (S) **3.55** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb (S)(R) **5.40** Shipping Wars UK (S)(R)

Channel 5

Live Boxing, 10.10pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.20 FILM Bob the Builder: Mega Machines (2017) (U) (S) **10.30 Funniest Cutest Kittens Ever** (S)(R) **11.30 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.25 FILM The Time Machine (2002) (PG)** Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce. (S) **3.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **5.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** A family with dubious immigration status finds itself homeless. (S)(R)

7.00 Cricket on 5 England v South Africa. (S)
7.55 5 News Weekend (S)

8.00 Live Boxing Coverage from the SSE Arena in Belfast. (S)
8.30 FIA Formula E Live The first Montreal ePrix race. Coverage of the first of two races staged at the Montreal Street Circuit, which serves as the 11th and penultimate round of the season. (S)

10.10 Live Boxing Carl Frampton v Andres Gutierrez. Coverage of the featherweight bout from SSE Arena in Belfast. (S)

12.00 SuperCasino (S) **3.05 FILM Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (2009) (18)** Crime drama, starring Nicolas Cage. (S) **5.00** Great Artists (S)(R) **5.25** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emma Willis: The Hot Desk **6.10** Emmerdale **9.05** Coronation Street **11.25** Take Me Out **12.35** Catchphrase: Celebrity Special **1.40** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10** FILM: See Spot Run (2001) (PG) Comedy, starring David Arquette. **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** FILM: See Spot Run (2001) (PG) Concluded. **5.05** FILM: The Smurfs 2 (2013) (U) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Hank Azaria. **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** FILM: The Smurfs 2 (2013) (U) Concluded. **7.10** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** FILM: Evan Almighty (2007) (PG) Concluded. **9.00** FILM: The Hangover (2009) (15) Comedy, starring Bradley Cooper. **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** FILM: The Hangover (2009) (15) Concluded. **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.00** FILM: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) (15) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** FILM: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) (15) **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 On the Buses **6.25** Murder, She Wrote **8.25** The Darling Buds of May **9.30** FILM: Death Becomes Her (1992) (PG) **10.35** FYI Daily **10.40** FILM: Death Becomes Her (1992) (PG) **11.30** FILM: Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) (PG) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** On the Buses **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 The Secret Life of Rockpools **8.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.30** Rich Hall's Countrier Than You **1.00** Bob Harris: My Nashville **2.00** The Secret Life of Rockpools **3.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **4.00** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.10** The Goldbergs **7.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **9.00** Coach Trip: Road to Zante **11.40** FILM: Astro Boy (2009) (PG) **1.30** FILM: Toy Story OF TERROR! (2013) (U) **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: This Is 40 (2012) (15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann. **11.40** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Gogglebox **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Food Unwrapped **9.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **1.50** Come Dine with Me **4.30** UEFA Women's Euro 2017. Coverage of a quarter-final match (kick-off TBA). **7.00** The Yorkshire Dales and the Lakes **8.00** Spying on the Royals **9.00** The Royal House of Windsor **10.05** Edward VIII's Murderous Mistress **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** Father Ted **2.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.30** Best of Food Unwrapped **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Bollywood Queen (2002) (PG) **1.00** A Monster in Paris (2011) (U) **2.45** Baby's Day Out (1994) (PG) Family comedy, with Joe Mantegna. **4.35** We Bought a Zoo (2011) (PG) Fact-based comedy drama, starring Matt Damon. **7.00** The Way Way Back (2013) (12) Comedy drama, starring Liam James. **9.00** The Green Mile (1999) (18) Supernatural drama, starring Tom Hanks. **12.40** As Above, So Below (2014) (15) **2.25** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) (18) **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.20 Lizard Lick Towing **7.40** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **8.30** Top Gear **9.30** Brojects **10.30** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **11.30** Go 8 Bit: DLC **12.00** The Joy of Techs **1.00** Top Gear **2.05** Traffic Cops **3.00** Motorway Cops **4.00** Gavin & Stacey **6.00** Would I Lie to You? **8.00** Not Going Out **10.00** FILM: South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999) (15) Animated musical comedy, with the voices of Trey Parker and Matt Stone. **11.35** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.35** QI XL **1.35** Mock the Week **2.50** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.15 Birds of a Feather **7.45** The Last Detective **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** When the Boat Comes In **5.00** Porridge **7.00** Maisie Raine **8.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **11.55** Waking the Dead **2.20** Judge John Deed **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **7.00** Futurama **7.30** The F1 Show **8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **2.00** Dogs: An Amazing Animal Family **3.00** It's Me or the Dog **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **9.00** FILM: Crocodile Dundee (1986) (15) Comedy, starring Paul Hogan. **11.00** The Simpsons **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Most Shocking **2.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** It's Me or the Dog **4.30** It's Me or the Dog **5.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **9.00** Fish Town **11.00** The Putin Interviews **1.20** House **4.00** Without a Trace **9.00** The Pacific **11.30** Ballers **12.05** Ray Donovan **2.10** Twin Peaks: The Return **3.20** Without a Trace **4.10** Fish Town

W SKY: 109

6.10 Judge Faith **6.35** The Bill **11.40** EastEnders **2.10** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **5.15** My Family Christmas Special **6.40** My Family **8.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Louise Redknapp **9.00** FILM: Rumour Has It (2005) (12) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Kevin Costner. **11.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **11.55** Louis Theroux: Under the Knife **12.55** MasterChef Australia **2.10** Battlechefs **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.05 The Piglet Files **7.40** Waiting for God **8.20** To the Manor Born **9.00** Last of the Summer Wine **11.40** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **9.40** Absolutely Fabulous **10.20** Jack Dee Live at the Apollo **11.20** The Young Ones **12.55** Black Books **2.05** Steve Coogan: Live 'n' Lewd **3.10** Nathan Barley **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT SKY: 401

6.00 Through the Night **7.00** Live Super Rugby. **9.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.30** Paddock Uncut **9.45** Live Formula 1. **11.10** Paddock Uncut **11.30** The F1 Show **12.00** Live Formula 1. The qualifying session for the Hungarian Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Live Test Cricket. England v South Africa. **5.00** Live GAA. Coverage of an All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Round 4B qualifier (Throw-in 5.00pm). **7.00** Live GAA. Coverage of an All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Round 4B qualifier (Throw-in 7.00pm). **9.00** Sky Sports Tonight **9.45** Live MLS. Atlanta United FC v Orlando City SC (kick-off 10.00pm). **12.00** Through the Night **2.00** Live Fight Night. **4.30** Through the Night

Sunday July 30th

BBC1

Countryfile, 8pm

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Sunday Morning Live** (S) **11.00 Cycling: Ride London** (S) **12.00 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **3.35 Cycling: Ride London** Live coverage of the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic. (S) **6.35 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7
7.00 Wild Alaska Live Liz Bonnin, Matt Baker and Steve Backshall conclude the coverage of Alaskan wildlife during the summer. Last in the series. (S)

8
8.00 Countryfile A look at green spaces and wildlife in urban areas. (S)

9
9.00 Poldark Ross becomes aware of Hugh's feelings for Demelza. (S)

10
10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)
10.30 The Heroes of Super Saturday: Jess, Mo & Greg (S)

11
11.20 FILM The Peacemaker (1997) (15) Action thriller, with George Clooney and Nicole Kidman. (S)

AFTER 12
1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.20** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Live Swimming: World Championships, 4.30pm

6.50 The Instant Gardener (S)(R) **7.35 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **8.35 The Beechgrove Garden** (S) **9.05 Countryfile** (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 Nigel Slater: Eating Together** (S)(R) **12.00 Food & Drink** (S)(R) **12.30 FILM Miss Potter (2006) (PG)** (S) **2.00 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League** (S) **4.30 Live Swimming: World Championships** (S)

7
7.00 First World War Remembered: Passchendaele Live coverage from Flanders, Belgium, of the ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War battle, and a dramatic event in Ypres telling its story. (S)

9

10
10.00 FILM Pride (2014) (15) A group of gay rights activists in 1980s Britain travels to Wales to lend their support to the striking miners. Fact-based drama, starring Ben Schnetzer. (S)

11
11.50 FILM Lilting (2014) (15) Drama, with Ben Whishaw and Pei-pei Cheng. (S)

AFTER 12
1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **2.10** Holby City (S)(R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy, 6.30pm

8.30 Weekend (S) **9.25 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **10.20 Long Lost Family** (S)(R) **11.20 Love Your Garden** (S)(R) **12.20 News** (S) **12.25 James Martin's French Adventure** (S)(R) **12.55 Rebound** (S)(R) **1.55 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.55 Bear Grylls Survival School** (S)(R) **3.25 FILM A View to a Kill (1985) (PG)** (S) **6.00 ITV Regional News** (S) **6.10 News** (S) **6.30 Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy** (S)(R)

7

8
8.00 FILM Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007) (12) The wizard unites his fellow pupils into a secret army to battle the resurrected Lord Voldemort. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Gary Oldman. (S)

9

10
10.30 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.50 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories Barrister Robert Rinder reveals how the creator of DNA fingerprinting helped solve a 1986 murder. (S)(R)

11
11.50 Take Me Out (S)(R)

AFTER 12
12.50 Jackpot247 3.00 Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights (S) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Naked Attraction, 11.10pm

6.20 Last Man Standing (S) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 Eat the Week** (S) **1.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **2.55 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **3.40 Homes by the Sea** (S)(R) **4.45 Channel 4 News** (S) **5.15 Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights** Action from the Hungaroring in Budapest. (S)

7
7.30 UEFA Women's Euro 2017 Subsequent programmes are subject to change. (S)

8

9

10
10.00 The Handmaid's Tale Janine is sentenced to a brutal punishment for her acts of disobedience. Last in the series. (S)

11
11.10 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson hosts as 22-year-old Sophie seeks a conversational man. (S)(R)

AFTER 12
12.15 FILM Moonrise Kingdom (2012) (12) (S) **1.50** 60 Days in Jail (S)(R) **2.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **3.05** Gillette World Sport (S) **3.30** Mobil 1 The Grid (S)(R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb (S)(R)

Channel 5

Dirty Dancing, 8pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.10 FILM Fireman Sam: Heroes of the Storm (2014) (U) (S) **10.25 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3** (S) **10.55 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **12.50 FILM Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994) (12)** (S) **2.30 FILM Zookeeper (2011) (PG)** Comedy, starring Kevin James. (S) **4.25 FILM Cheaper By the Dozen 2 (2005) (PG)** Comedy sequel, starring Steve Martin. (S) **6.05 Now That's Funny!** (S)(R)

7
7.00 Cricket on 5 England v South Africa. (S)
7.55 5 News Weekend (S)

8
8.00 FILM Dirty Dancing (1987) (12) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence. (S)

9
9.00 5 News Update
9.05 FILM Dirty Dancing (1987) (12) Concluded. Edited for language and violence. (S)

10
10.05 The Dirty Dancing Story A 30th anniversary celebration of the movie phenomenon. (S)(R)

11
11.35 Premiership Rugby Sevens Action from the pre-season tournament at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton. (S)

AFTER 12
12.35 FIA Formula E: Highlights (S) **1.15** SuperCasino (S) **3.10** Drain the Bermuda Triangle (S)(R) **4.00** The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant (S)(R) **4.50** Great Artists (S)(R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **6.25** Emmerdale **9.25** Coronation Street **12.00** Ninja Warrior UK **1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.30** FILM: The Waterboy (1998) (12) Sporting comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** FILM: The Waterboy (1998) (12) Concluded. **3.20** FILM: Yogi Bear (2010) (U) Comedy, with the voice of Dan Aykroyd. **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** FILM: Yogi Bear (2010) (U) Concluded. **4.55** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Concluded. **6.50** FILM: Step Up (2006) (PG) Romantic dance drama, with Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan. **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** FILM: Step Up (2006) (PG) Concluded. **9.00** Love Island: The Reunion **10.35** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.30** FILM: Bachelorette (2012) (15) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** FILM: Bachelorette (2012) (15) **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 FILM: Death Becomes Her (1992) (PG) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** FILM: Death Becomes Her (1992) (PG) **7.40** Heartbeat **9.40** Murder, She Wrote **11.45** The Darling Buds of May **12.50** FILM: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) (PG) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Ian McShane. **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.25** George and Mildred **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **7.30** BBC Proms 2017 **11.30** Norman Wisdom: His Story **12.30** Horizon: 10 Things You Need to Know About the Future **1.30** Beautiful Thing: A Passion for Porcelain **2.30** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **3.30** Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **4.00** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **12.00** Binky & JP's Baby: Born in Chelsea **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** New Girl **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** FILM: The Day After Tomorrow (2004) (12) Disaster thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Dennis Quaid. **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **10.00** FILM: The Change-Up (2011) (15) Comedy, starring Jason Bateman and Ryan Reynolds. **12.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **1.20** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **2.25** Gogglebox **3.05** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** Location, Location, Location **11.15** Come Dine with Me **1.50** Four in a Bed **4.30** UEFA Women's Euro 2017. Coverage of a quarter-final match (kick-off TBA). **7.00** The Secret Life of the Zoo **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live **11.05** It Was Alright in the 1980s **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.05** It Was Alright in the 1980s **3.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Flight of the Navigator (1986) (U) Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. **1.00** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) (12) Romantic comedy, with Kathy Baker and Maria Bello. **3.05** Gulliver's Travels (2010) (PG) Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black. **4.45** The Return of the Musketeers (1989) (PG) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Oliver Reed and Michael York. **6.55** Home Alone (1990) (PG) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin. **9.00** Lucy (2014) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson. **10.40** The Family (2013) (15) Comedy thriller, with Robert De Niro and Michelle Pfeiffer. **12.55** Devil's Knot (2013) (15) **3.15** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Traffic Cops **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Traffic Cops **10.00** Motorway Cops **11.00** Best of Red Bull Soapbox Race **12.00** Top Gear **2.00** Would I Lie to You? **4.00** Top Gear Winter Olympics Special **5.00** Top Gear **6.00** Best of Red Bull Soapbox Race **7.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00** QI XL **1.00** Mock the Week **2.15** Room 101 **2.45** Parks and Recreation **3.30** Traffic Cops **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.00 The Bill **10.45** Call the Midwife **2.45** Catherine Cookson's Tilly Trotter **4.45** Maisie Raine **5.45** The Musketeers **7.00** Jonathan Creek **8.00** The Doctor Blake Mysteries **9.00** Silent Witness **11.20** Spooks **12.40** Taggart **3.20** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Futurama **8.00** Drone Racing League **10.00** WWE Raw **11.00** MacGyver **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Dogs: An Amazing Animal Family **9.00** Ross Kemp: Extreme World **10.00** The Force: North East **11.00** Zoo **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** It's Me or the Dog **5.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Urban Secrets **9.00** Fish Town **10.00** The British **11.00** House **2.00** Nothing Left Unsaid: Gloria Vanderbilt & Anderson **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.10** Ballers **10.50** 1993 **11.50** Riviera **12.50** Game of Thrones **3.10** Twin Peaks: The Return **4.20** Fish Town

W SKY: 109

6.10 Judge Faith **6.55** Traffic Cops **7.30** Celebrity MasterChef **1.00** Doctor Who **3.00** My Family Christmas Special **4.20** My Family **5.00** Outnumbered **7.00** One Born Every Minute **10.00** Educating Yorkshire **11.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **12.00** One Born Every Minute **1.00** The Musketeers **2.10** Battlechefs **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Last of the Summer Wine **8.50** Only Fools and Horses **9.20** Live at the Apollo **10.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.00** Men Behaving Badly **12.20** The Mighty Boosh **1.40** Big Train **2.50** The Thick of It **3.25** Men Behaving Badly **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT SKY: 401

6.00 Through the Night **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Cricket Writers on TV **10.00** Live Test Cricket. England v South Africa. **11.30** Live Formula 1. **12.30** Live Formula 1. The Hungarian Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Live Formula 1. Updates and interviews from the paddock area following the Hungarian Grand Prix. **4.15** Paddock Uncut **4.30** Live European Seniors Tour Golf. The Senior Open Championship. **7.00** Live World Matchplay Darts. The final from Blackpool. **9.00** Live PGA Tour Golf. The RBC Canadian Open. **11.00** Through the Night

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Towersey, here we come

By Samantha McGregor

Singer, composer and musician Jon Boden will be packing his favourite fiddle for Towersey

TICKETS are still available for Oxfordshire's Towersey Festival taking place later this month.

Organisers say 85 per cent of weekend tickets have been sold for the festival at Thame Showground, which runs for four-days over the bank holiday, from August 25 to 28.

Towersey Festival features headline appearances from singer-songwriter KT Tunstall, troubadour Newton Faulkner, former Bellowhead frontman Jon Boden whose first instrument is the fiddle, Eliza Carthy and The Wayward Band, the chart-topping Blockheads, and Show Of Hands.

Joining them are Newcastle folk rock legends Lindisfarne, Ed Sheeran's co-writer Foy Vance, and comedian Rob Deering, while The Gary Stewart Band perform their acclaimed tribute to Paul Simon's seminal Graceland album.

With the full programme now released, Towersey boasts 12 stages which are set to host more than 150 events across four days and nights.

Towersey Festival director Joe Heap said: "We've been really bowled over by the speed in which tickets have been flying out this year.

"We believe it's down to a combination of elements.

"These include the strength of our programming across the board – from the big names like KT Tunstall and our extensive range of workshops, to late night dances and popular activities for younger festival-goers – but also our commitment to improving site infrastructure and considering the importance of the entire festival experience.

"We spend a great deal of time on what many may consider the finer details, from ensuring visitors are welcomed and ease of access, to sourcing local independent breweries for our well-stocked bars and making sure there's plenty of room on the campsites for everyone.

"And we're always trying to improve what we do."

Alongside the music, the festival will include street theatre, yoga, the Towersey Choir, All About Children, films, folk club sessions, Ceilidh dances and more.

Billed as one of the UK's longest-running independent music festivals, Towersey has been running since 1965, regularly attracting between 7,000 and 10,000 people.

For more information and ticket details go to the website towersey-festival.com

Delve canal secrets

MUSEUM: Banbury Museum is to host a Water World Day on Tuesday.

Children can join the fun and make a junk model canal boat or a piece of canal art.

Visitors can travel back in time to become a boatman or use their detective skills to uncover the watery secrets in the museum trail.

There's even as chance to hear stories about the pirates who sailed the Oxford Canal. For more information view banburymuseum.org.

Awfully good show

THEATRE: A stage adaptation of David Walliams favourite Awful Aunt comes to the New Theatre from October 11 to 14.

It tells the story of Stella, who set off for London with her parents – Lord and Lady Saxby – only to wake up three months later and only her Aunt Alberta can tell her what happened.

Starr peformance

MUSIC: Ringo Starr has announced his 19th solo album, Give More Love, will be out on September 15.

Recorded at his studio in Los Angeles, Give More Love, has 10 new tracks featuring collaborations with Paul McCartney, Joe Walsh, Edgar Winter and Steve Lukather.

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Bollywood set for blast off

By Samantha McGregor

The dynamic cast of Bring on the Bollywood will bring the explosive colour, vibrancy and beauty of Indian dance to the stage

GET set for love, comedy and sensational Bollywood dancing in a new show at the Oxford Playhouse.

Bring on the Bollywood, where new and old collide, takes a love story inspired by real life, filters it through classical comedies from Goldsmith to Shakespeare and infuses it with all the energy of a great Bollywood musical.

Join Katrina, the headstrong heroine, as she returns to her parents' home to attend her brother's wedding. Here she finds a meddling mother, a line of suitors and, possibly, true love.

Bring on the Bollywood takes to the Playhouse stage from August 15 to 19.

With a dynamic cast of celebrated British Asian performers and young rising stars, the comedic musical of East meets West is set to bring the explosive colour, vibrancy and beauty of classic Bollywood to the stage.

The fiery heroine Dr Katrina Pawar is played by newcomer Nisha Aaliya, who was selected from hundreds of hopefuls and was discovered in the unlikeliest of circumstances.

Director Samir Bhamra said: "Andrew Lloyd Webber has rightly slammed the lack of diversity in musical theatre but, for me, the lack of opportunities for young British Asian performers goes much deeper.

"I discovered our perfect heroine, Nisha, by chance when she attended our auditions as a choreographic assistant. By urging her to audition herself, we have unearthed an exceptional acting talent.

"However, like the majority of young South Asian performers, her only outlets for professional showcasing have been the Bollywood dance competitions. Without clearly defined pathways, formal training, and a diversity of roles, such talents can surely only rely on the chance few musicals that focus on Asian culture for a route into the West End."

Anthony Sahota – a finalist on Gary Barlow's Let It Shine, which aired on BBC One, will play the part of Katrina's mischievous, betrothed brother.

Tickets from £11.50, are available from oxfordplayhouse.com

Delights for all at Wilderness

THIS weekend sees Wilderness Festival return for its seventh summer with a string of headline acts.

Two Door Cinema Club open the festival at Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, as headliners tomorrow, while Grace Jones heads up Saturday.

And Bonobo takes centre stage on Sunday playing tracks from his acclaimed 2017 album Migration.

The Wilderness Main Stage, this year with BBC Music, will host an international selection of musical talents, including Swedish sibling duo First Aid Kit, BRIT-nominated Londoner Michael Kiwanuka, BBC Sound of 2017 winner Ray Blk, rocksteady and reggae icons Toots & The Maytals and Aurora.

Wilderness claims to have pioneered the shift in festival dining, welcoming big names from the culinary world to create a feast for festival goers. This year's line-up includes Yotam Ottolenghi, Nuno Mendes and Thomasina Miers.

As ever there's a host of activities from art and craft workshops, children's theatre, a well-being area, forest bike adventures, wild swimming, archery and nature walks.

For details and ticket details go to wildernessfestival.com

Visit the Oxford Aqua Park this summer for an experience like no other! The brand new inflatable water park, located at Queensford Lake Watersports Centre, Burcot Lane in Berinsfield opened its doors on the 1st of July and has been bustling with adults, kids, families, friends and work colleagues since.

With inflatable obstacles including Tunnels, Ringo Rides, Big Balls, Huge Slides & more, the aqua park is guaranteed to bring fits of giggles and lots of fun to your summer.

The 60 acre picturesque lake also offers Wake Boarding & Water Skiing facilities and the onsite BBQ and Ice Cream counter means that you can enjoy a few hours at the lake with your family and friends.

Ages 6 and above can join, prices from just £15 per person for a 50 minute session, and although the water is not as cold as you would think, wetsuits are available to hire for an extra £5.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Hip hop pair T-off UK tour

By Samantha McGregor

HIP-HOP duo Too Many T's have announced a UK tour to launch their debut album this autumn.

Too Many T's have built up a strong fan base with their electric performances and positive vibes stage shows by touring all over the UK in the last four years.

The pair have supported some of hip-hop's greats including Snoop Dogg, Big Daddy Kane, De La Soul and Public Enemy.

But it's now time for the T's to step forward and take centre stage.

Next month Too Many T's release their long-awaited debut album, which has been produced alongside Flux Pavilion and Odjbox.

Called South City, the T's say its high-energy sound will appeal to music lovers around the globe.

Fans will be able to catch a live performance featuring songs from the album at The Bullingdon, in Oxford, on November 3.

Leon Rhymes, Too Many T's, said: "For us, this just feels like the beginning. To work for over two years on the album and for everything to finally come together, we couldn't be more hyped to get out there and show people what we've been cooking."

What started out as holiday trip to Marrakesh in 2011, has seen the two friends start a crazy journey into the hip-hop world.

After quitting their office jobs and touring open-mic nights to gain a following, Too Many T's were quickly given a stage by Rob da Bank, of Bestival and BBC fame, and before long, they were touring the UK and Europe and being repeatedly labelled as 'Britain's answer to the Beastie Boys'.

Fast forward to 2016 and the pair went to a resort to pen some songs - the result is the new album. The debut single from the forthcoming album, Diamonds/Gold, was released last month.' For more information and tickets view toomanyts.com

Too Many T's play The Bullingdon, Oxford, on November 3

See Sherlock as never before

CHIPPING Norton Theatre is to stage the premiere of a new Sherlock Holmes caper.

Sherlock Holmes & The Crimson Cobbles was commissioned for Chipping Norton Theatre. The show will be delivered at breakneck pace in what is dscribed as 'a hilarious, deeply daft theatrical explosion for adults and family audiences'.

It takes place from September 19 to 24.

Holmes and Watson are called upon to investigate the Whitechapel murders that are sending shockwaves through London.

But when the evidence points to only one possible and inconceivable conclusion about the identity of Jack the Ripper, is our super sleuth prepared to believe the unbelievable?

From the playwright behind the theatre's 2014 production of Around the World in 80 Days, this witty, laugh-a-minute production of Conan Doyle's investigative pair is a fast-paced, physical and raucous night at the theatre.

Suitable for age 12 and up, tickets start at £5. For details view chippingnortontheatre.com

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Didcot	08:40	18:45				
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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Delirious space opera looks great, but falls flat!

Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets (PG)

By Laurie Bailey

IN an interview with deadline.com back in May, director Luc Besson revealed that sci-fi action epic Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets is not a bolt from the blue, but a dream he has treasured for over 20 years, waiting for visual effects to catch up and the right opportunity to appear.

With a reported $175 million budget - making it one of the most expensive independent productions of all time, and the most expensive French production on record - clearly, Besson and his many backers believe the moment has arrived to take a very high-risk plunge.

Based on what I've just watched, whoever had the job of saying "look before you leap" took too many days off.

Adapted by Besson from a beloved 1960s French comic series, Valerian centres on two young special agents in a distant, space-faring future - Valerian himself (a rakish Dane DeHaan), and his trusted partner Laureline (confident relative newcomer Cara Delevingne).

When a deadly radioactive zone is discovered growing deep within the 'city of a thousand planets' (formerly the international space station, now home to a vast array of alien representatives), Valerian and Laureline must solve its mystery before it causes a galaxy-wide diplomatic incident.

This simple plot acts as the thinnest of threads holding together a patchwork of bizarre sci-fi spectacles:

Tribal aliens extremely reminiscent of James Cameron's 'Avatar' species fumble with space pearls; Valerian and Laureline foil a dodgy trade in an inter-dimensional marketplace; kidnappers are pursued through the space station's vivid artificial environments; a brain-sucking jellyfish is extracted from the back of a giant space whale; and Ethan Hawke prances about as owner of a shape-shifting brothel.

Each of these spectacles is genuinely spectacular, with superlative special effects and a rich score from veteran Alexandre Desplat - but there is nothing beneath the veneer.

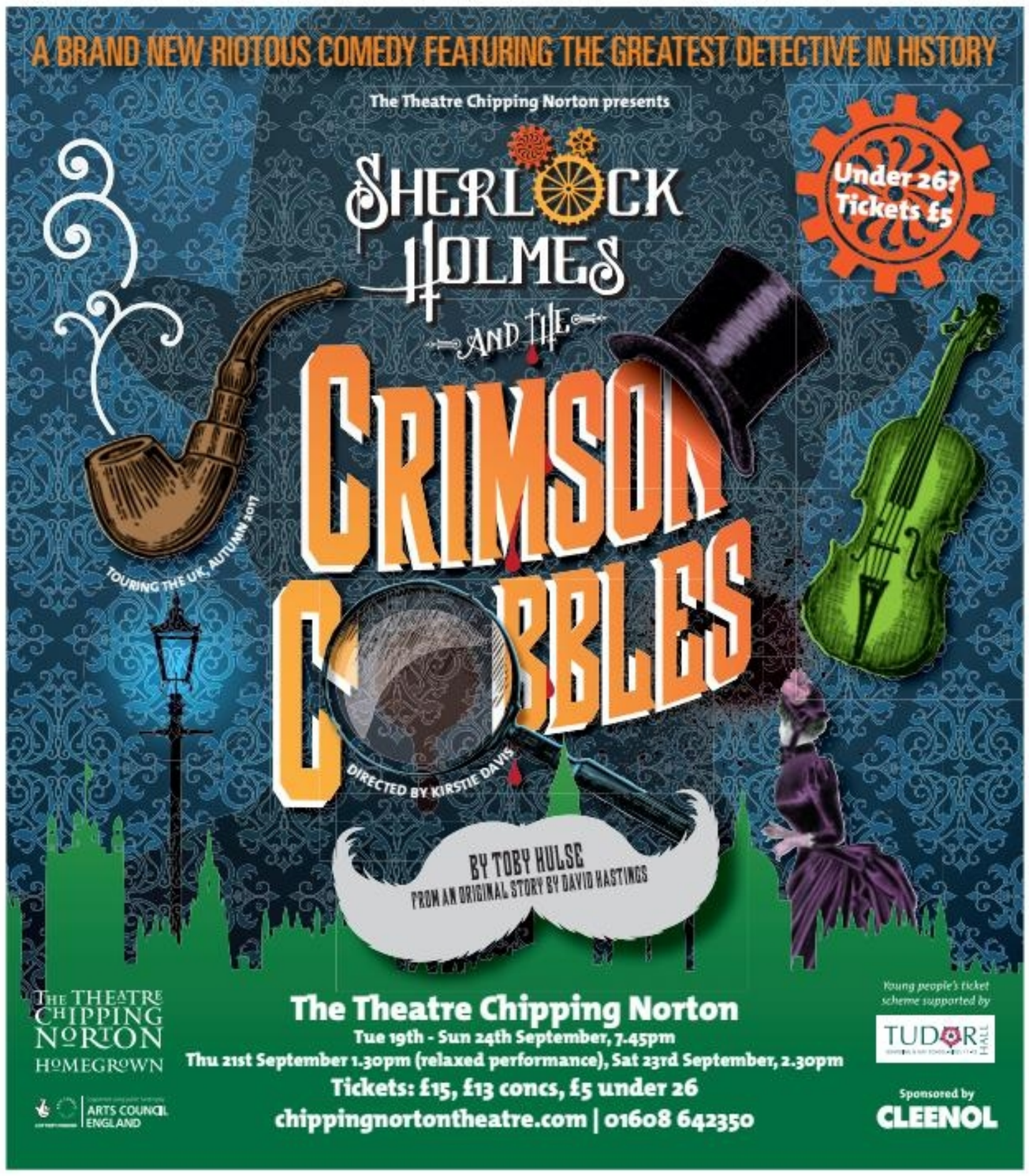
The script is laughable; performances unbalanced; narrative confused; humour terribly leaden. Put simply: you won't watch many films where it's considered acceptable for a vomit-in-the-face gag to precede a pseudo-erotic pole dance by Rihanna.

It is extremely disheartening to see a plucky underdog like this tripping over its own ambitions; this was a huge chance to dazzle audiences with the possibilities of big budget cinema without big studio constraints.

Marvel, Disney et al will hardly be quaking in their boots.

Cara Delevingne as Laureline and Dane DeHaan as Valerian in Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets
Picture: Courtesy of Lionsgate

Laurie is an Oxford-based film critic, movie podcast host and BBC Radio Oxford film contributor. He lives locally with his wife, daughter and son.
See more of his film reviews at lauriebailey.co.uk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Agents working to engage with public more online

Giosg, which helps clients do better business by engaging more successfully with their online visitors, analysed data from around 2.8 million visitors to UK property companies' websites. As well as delivering raw data, it also suggests that companies could do more to be in synch with the needs and demands of their online visitors.

Giosg already works with eight property companies including Knight Frank, Connells and Savills, and analysed the visits of 2,710,592 individuals looking for properties across these eight websites in a period of one month (May 2017). The busiest company website accounted for over 40% of all these visitors.

"What's interesting, is that once visitors arrive at the estate agent's website, more often than not via a click through from a property portal site such as Zoopla, they are very loyal to that estate agent's website. Just 4.6% of the visitors we monitored go on to browse other estate agents' websites," says Ville Rissanen, CEO at Giosg.

On average, visitors view 8.8 pages during a browsing session, although results vary between the best performing site which generated 14.9 page views per visit and the worst with only 2.8. This demonstrates that the best site is performing more than four times better than the worst.

"Implementing live chat can be a timely and effective solution as it gives visitors a channel to ask for help with navigation and to find what they are looking for. It's also a popular route with estate agencies who are looking to engage more with their visitors to gain stronger insights into what they want and which aspects of the customer experience could be improved," Rissanen continues.

Property companies have most online visitors during the working week between 6am and 7pm, although their chat operators (the average is three per company on a weekday, although the range is from one to 15) are most online between 9am and 6pm.

Rissanen said: "This means there are three hours a day which accounts for 720,000 unique visitors and indicates that a significant amount of potential additional business is currently just 'walking away'".

Chat conversations, which have become an increasingly common feature on property websites - combined the eight property companies have over 1,000 chat conversations per month - were about: booking a valuation, 30%; property enquiry, 28%; general enquiry, 20%; technical issues and site content, 5%; branch contact, 2%; recruitment, 1%; other, 14%

Weekend online visits accounted for approximately 850,000 visitors in the month. Whilst weekend visits fall (perhaps because people are actually out visiting properties) by 30% on Saturdays and 34% on Sundays, the number of chat operators 'on call' drops by an even bigger 51% and 69% respectively, and by 73% for one of the companies. Five out of the eight companies have no one on chat duty on Sundays.

Home and location are full of natural beauty

An area of outstanding natural beauty, Letcombe Regis & Bassett nestles at the foot of the Berkshire Downs on Letcombe Brook approximately one mile from the market town of Wantage.

The attractive and desirable village has a play group, church, village hall, coffee shop and a popular pub, The Greyhound.

This beautiful three bedroom detached cottage is situated in this highly desirable Oxfordshire village.

Located in a private lane with just three other properties, this character home has a ground floor cloakroom, spacious lounge/ dining room with a wood burner and a good size kitchen to the ground floor.

To the first floor are three bedrooms and the family bathroom. Off road parking for one with a pretty cottage garden to the front.

The entrance hall has a tiled floor, a window to the front, useful cloaks cupboard.

The living/ dining room has a window to the side, a window to the front and a box bay window to the front. The wood burner, with a brick surrounding, provides a lovely focal point.

With ample room for a dining table and chairs, the dining area is open to the extended kitchen.

A rare opportunity to buy into this location with an EPC Rating G.

For more information call the sales information line on 01235 772670 or visit www.davistate.com

Oxford's 4,128 mortgage time-bombs?

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

According to my research, of the 58,716 properties in Oxford, 19,110 of those properties have mortgages on them. 72.4% of those mortgaged properties are made up of owner-occupiers and the rest are buy to let landlords (with a mortgage). But this is the concerning part - 4,128 of those Oxford mortgages are interest only. Each year between 2017 and 2022, 50 of those households with interest only mortgages will mature, and of those, 12 households a year will either have a shortfall or no way of paying the mortgage off.

Theoretically, this is an enormous problem for anyone in this situation as their home is at risk of repossession if they don't have some means to repay these mortgages at the end of the term. Banks and Building Societies are under no obligation to lengthen the term of the mortgage and, when deciding whether they are prepared to do so or not, will look at it in the same way as someone coming to them for a new mortgage.

Back in the 1980's, endowment mortgages were all the rage, having an endowment meant you were taking out an interest only mortgage and then paying into an endowment policy which would pay the mortgage off (plus hopefully leave some profit) at the end of the 25/35-year term. Only the interest, rather than any capital, was paid to the mortgage company - but the full debt had to be cleared at the end of the 25/35-year term.

Historically plenty of Oxford homeowners bought an endowment policy to run alongside their interest only mortgage. However, because the endowment policy was a stock market linked investment plan and the stock market poorly performed between 1999 and 2003 (when the FTSE dropped 49.72%), the endowments of many of these homeowners didn't cover the shortfall. Whilst, many were left with a debt, their endowment at least covered a proportion of the mortgage repayment.

Nonetheless, in the mid 2000's, the banks still sold 'interest only' mortgages, but this time with no savings plan, endowment or investment product to pay the mortgage off at the end of the term. It was a case of 'we'll sort that nearer the time' as property prices were on the rampage in an upwards direction!

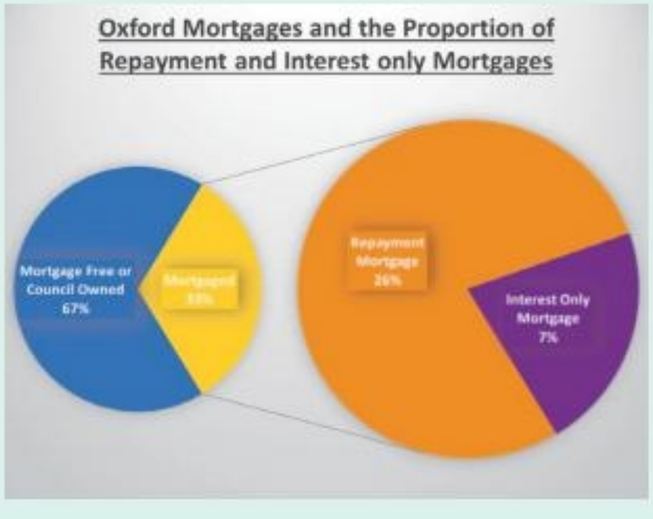
Thankfully, the proportion of interest only mortgages sold started to decline after the Credit Crunch, as you can see looking at the graph below, from a peak of 43.81% of all mortgages to the current 8.71%.

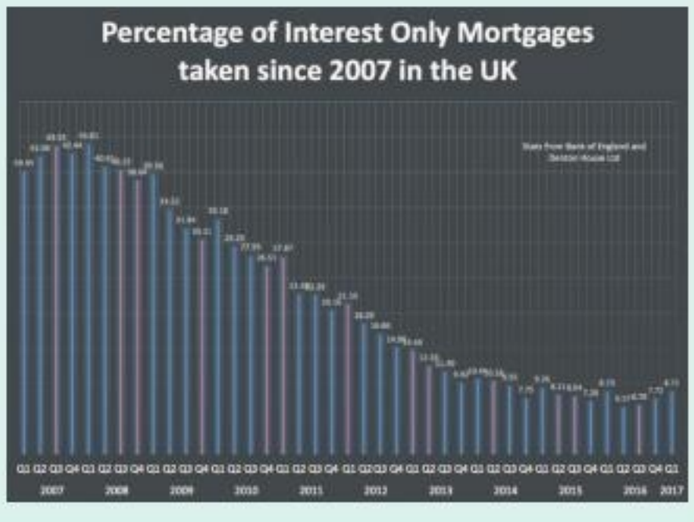
Increasing the length of the mortgage to obtain more time to raise the money has gradually become more difficult since the introduction of stricter lending criteria in 2014, with many mature borrowers considered too old for a mortgage extension at the point their interest-only loan matures.

Oxford people who took out interest only mortgages years ago and don't have a strategy to pay back the mortgage face a ticking time bomb. Recently a client of mine faced this exact scenario, and was obliged to hastily sell the property struggling to achieve full market value due to his debt repayment deadline.

I want to stress to all existing and future homeowners who use mortgages to go in to them with your eyes open. You must understand, whilst the banks and building societies could do more to help, you too have personal responsibility.

For more thoughts on the Oxford Property Market – visit the Oxford Property Blog at **www.OxfordPropertyBlog.co.uk**


Oxford Mortgages and the Proportion of Repayment and Interest only Mortgages
Mortgage Free or Council Owned 67%
Repayment Mortgage 26%
Interest Only Mortgage 7%



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Advertising & General Manager
Tony Harbour
01235 516925
tony@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Editorial 01235 516931
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Distribution & Subscriptions 01235 516902
distribution@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Accounts 01235 516910
accounts@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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investment opportunity. This mid terrace house currently has long term tenants in situ. Quite cul de sac located over looking the River Ock within easy walk of Abingdon town centre. Garage in block and parking space. **£290,000**

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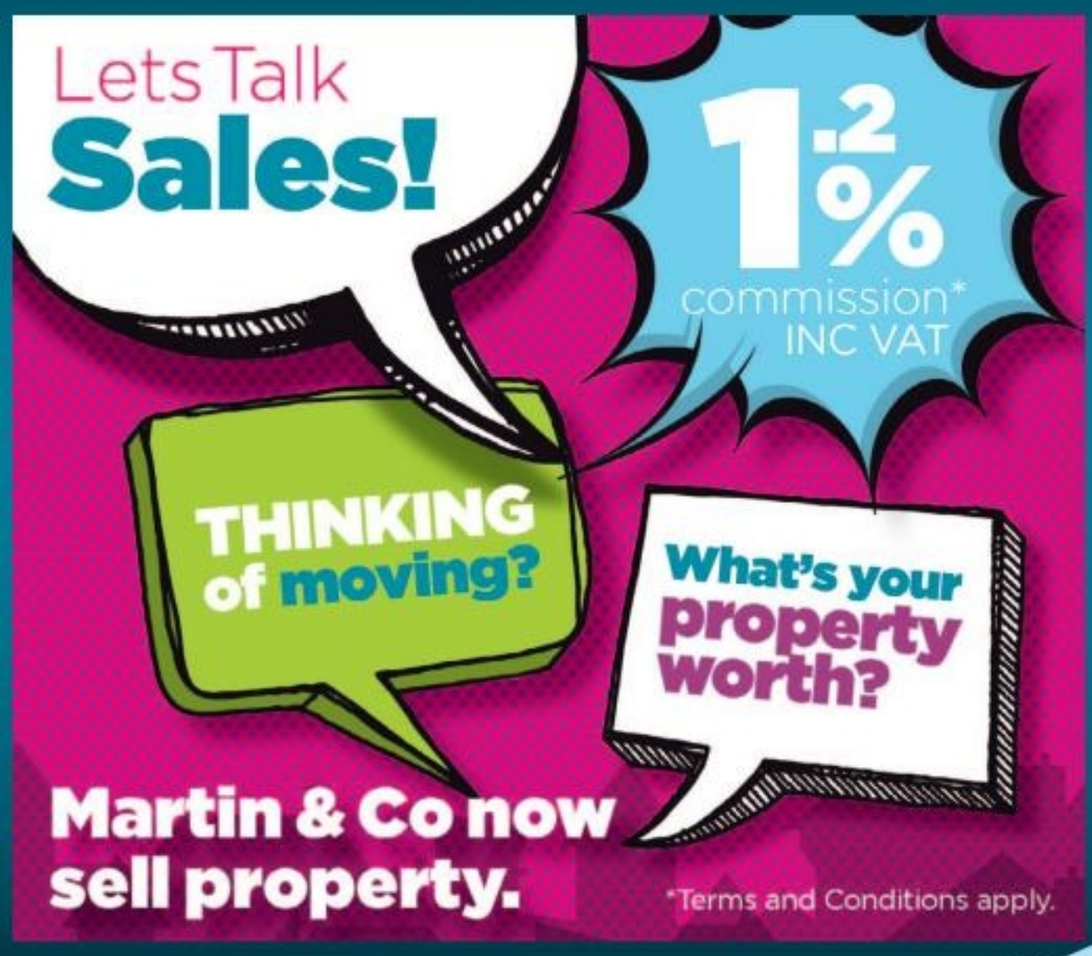

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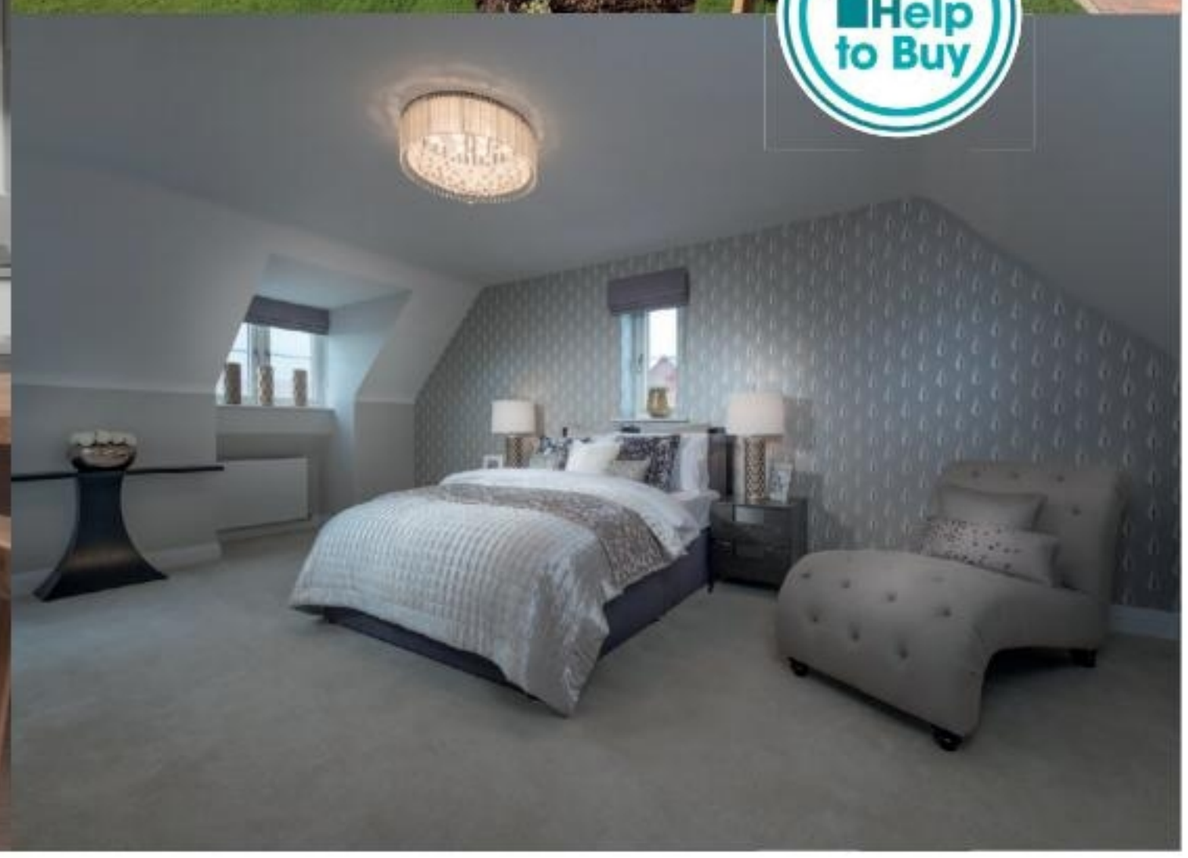

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DS3 Prestige BlueHDi 120 S&S 6-speed manual

Small family car ticks all boxes

By **Tony Yates**

A few months back I tested the petrol version of the DS3 and I found it to be a bit on the weak side, so this month I am testing the all singing and dancing prestige version but in diesel form this time. It would be easy to get into the petrol vs diesel argument here, but that's for another time. Sometimes it's not just about which engine is better, sometimes it's just down to what you as the owner prefer to be under the bonnet.

Power and efficiency

The DS3 I had on test was powered by a 1560cc Euro 6 diesel engine with 88kW of power (120HP) and 285Nm of torque, which is a good starting point. Fuel consumption comes in around 70mpg combined and CO2 emissions of around 94g/km. And a respectable 0-62 time of around 9.3 seconds.

On the road

The DS3 rides well and all the chassis components have been setup to keep you firmly welded to the road ahead, while the suspension underneath you does a great job of keeping it that way no matter how demanding the road ahead gets.

The chassis has also been tuned to give you a smooth and stable ride, although I would of liked a bit more feedback from the steering and a little bit more feel as to what the road surface beneath me was doing, but the chassis more than makes up for these minor niggles.

Interior & technology

The sports seating does a great job of keeping you well supported, while rear passenger leg room is adequate for most adults. Boot space is also good at 285litres (seats up). There are also 2X isofix child seat anchorage points on the rear seats – making the fitting of a supported child seat very easy indeed.

The New DS3 also benefits from a centrally-mounted seven-inch touch-screen along with cruise control, RDS radio with six speakers and AUX socket, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth® handsfree and media streaming with USB socket, LED daytime running lights and LED front fog lights.

Then there is a host of safety features such as; ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Emergency Braking Assistance, Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Start Assist function, Active City Brake, driver and passenger front lateral and curtain airbags and remote central locking with deadlocks.

To sum up

The DS3 is a great car for the person looking for a small family car that ticks all the boxes. There is a petrol version of course – but if I was you I would opt for the diesel every time, but not because the petrol is bad, more that the diesel's resale value will be a tad stronger when you come to upgrade.

Price: (from) £19,495 OTR – not including fitted options.

•The DS3 rides well and comes with a host of safety features

Mini Madness hits local used car dealership

Local used car dealership, SC Cars Centre in Didcot, Oxfordshire has been inundated with those loveable Minis since last week. Good used cars come and go but these are expected to fly off the forecourt. So, pop down and have a chat with one of the friendly team and get your hands on their ownership papers before they're gone!

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48 monthly payments	£119.00	Total amount payable	£10,397.50
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Deposit contribution	£750.00	Duration of agreement	49 months
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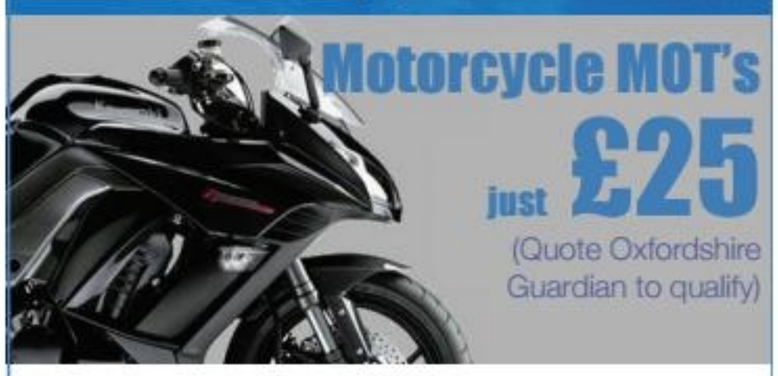

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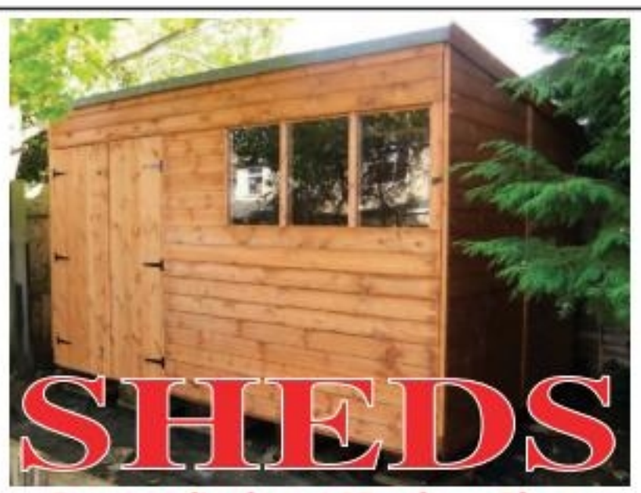

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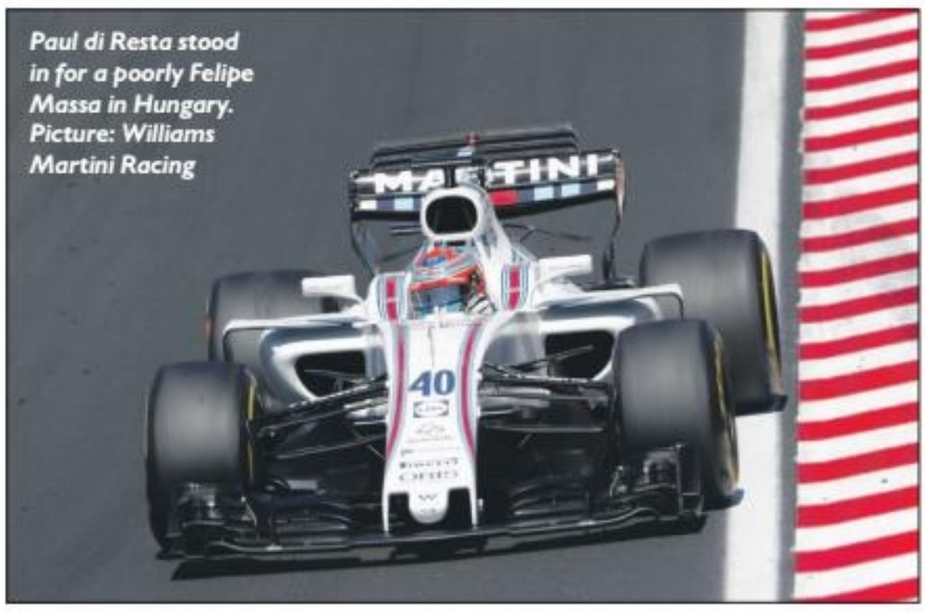
Oil leak sees early end for di Resta on return

By Adam Flinn

F1 Williams



Paul di Resta stood in for a poorly Felipe Massa in Hungary. Picture: Williams Martini Racing

PAUL di Resta's return to Formula One with Williams after four years away ended in disappointment after he was forced to retire from Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix with an oil leak.

The Scottish driver had been deputising for Felipe Massa, who fell ill ahead of Saturday's qualifying session and opted to pull out of the remainder of the weekend.

Reserve driver di Resta had never driven the 2017 car before, but did a solid job to put his car 19th on the grid, within a second of team-mate Lance Stroll.

And while di Resta spent much of Sunday's race towards the back, the Grove-based team was satisfied with his performance.

Di Resta said: "Jumping straight in the car with no experience of the different tyre compounds or running on high fuel, I wasn't sure what to expect so I went in with an open mind.

"We went a different way on strategy, but the biggest thing for me was just gaining the confidence as the runs went on and I was feeling more comfortable with the car.

"It would have been nice to finish without the oil leak, but overall I'm not too dissatisfied with where I was given how little running I'd had."

Stroll meanwhile described his race as "boring", as he had a quiet afternoon before bringing his Williams home outside the points in 14th.

The slow nature of the Hungaroring circuit isn't suited to the Williams, and while Stroll was comfortably ahead of the Saubers he was unable to make an impression on the teams ahead.

He said: "It was quite a boring race. I was driving along the whole time, so not much happened and we didn't have the pace this weekend to stay with the others.

"I tried everything I could in the first stint to hold the other guys and I was doing ok, then in the second stint I tried the undercut but I just didn't have the pace and overheated the rears too much.

"All in all, it was a tough weekend, but we now need to look forward to the other kinds of tracks – Spa and Monza – that should be better for our car."

After two days of testing in Hungary finished yesterday, Formula One is now on its summer break, with the next race in Belgium on August 27.

Jo Bates on Elusive. Picture: Julian Portch Photography

Not-so Elusive win for 'star' horse and rider

Equestrian

BANBURY-BASED showjumper Jo Bates won a prestigious championship at Hickstead's Royal International Horse Show on Saturday.

She claimed the Bereton Supreme Hack Championship with Suzanna Welby's seven-year-old Elusive.

"I've had many placings and reserves but this is my first Supreme here," Bates said.

"This horse is really special, he (Elusive) just loves the big occasion.

"He was Hack Champion at Windsor this year and here last year.

"We usually take him for a hack and then loose school him the day before a show and let him have a good buck and a kick."

Bates added: "He's so smooth and comfortable – he's sublime to ride.

"This is my second season riding him and he's only been beaten once last season. He has such charisma and star quality that he really wants to win. He really enjoys it and loves his job."

Elusive's owner, Suzanna Welby was equally impressed with his performances.

"He's the world's most fabulous horse to ever walk the earth," she said.

"I bought him as a three-year-old – my daughter found him and I fell in love with him straight away.

"He was unbeaten in hand and is the horse of a lifetime."

Bates and Elusive went on to contest the British Horse Society Supreme Ridden Horse Championship on Sunday, putting on an excellent show for the judges to finish a credible third overall.

Oxfordshire drivers come to blows

F1

THERE was no love lost between Nico Hulkenberg and Kevin Magnussen following a heated battle for 11th place during Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

The two drivers – who race for Oxfordshire teams Renault and Haas respectively – came to blows with nine laps of the race left after Hulkenberg suffered a slow pitstop.

Hulkenberg attempted to pass Magnussen round the outside of turn two, but the Haas driver held firm and pushed Hulkenberg onto the grass.

The Renault driver subsequently retired from the race with brake and gearbox issues, while Magnussen was given a five second penalty.

But things boiled over in the media pen following the race when Hulkenberg confronted Magnussen about the incident, with the pair trading insults.

Hulkenberg said later: "The pitstop was frustrating as we lost a lot of time at a vital moment in the race, which led to me being stuck behind Magnussen.

Kevin Magnussen (pictured) was penalised for his late-race antics with Nico Hulkenberg. Picture: Haas F1

"I'm all for hard racing but he was just ruthless by pushing me off track, for which he was then penalised."

Magnussen said: "I didn't even touch him. He could have chosen to back out, as I had the corner and if anything, I was a little bit in front.

"We braked late, so it's natural you go wide and push on the entry. He put himself in danger on the outside."

Race two collision ruins Plato's afternoon

Touring Cars

A PROMISING start to the day in Snetterton turned into frustration for Jason Plato as he could only score points in one of the three races on Sunday.

The Oxford-based British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) driver secured a solid fifth place result in race one – his second best result so far in what has been a tough season.

From ninth on the grid, Plato made steady progress up the order to score a much-needed haul of points, while his team-mate Ash Sutton won his first of two races on the day.

However it all went wrong on the opening lap of race two, as Plato made contact with the BMW of Andrew Jordan and was sent tumbling out of contention.

He eventually finished well down the order in 24th place.

And starting way down the grid in race three, Plato was able to take advantage of a high rate of non-finishers to move up the field, but he ultimately ended the race just outside the points in 16th.

Plato is currently a lowly 15th in the BTCC standings with 60 points, with the five drivers from 12th to 16th separated by just 12 points.

He will be hoping for better luck at the next round of the championship at Knockhill on August 13.

Jason Plato managed a fifth place at Snetterton, but not much else Picture: btcc.net

Saints denied play-off spot in final game of the season

By Matthew Brown

American Football

OXFORD Saints narrowly missed out on qualifying for the playoffs by three points, despite ending their season on a high with a thrilling 24-22 topsy-turvy home victory against the Ouse Valley Eagles at Tilsley Park.

The opening stages featured both defences breaking down the offences but it was the Saints who seized the initiative and running back Tony Glover charged up the middle for the opening score.

Sam Fielden kicked the extra point to give Oxford a 7-0 lead but the Eagles hit back in the second quarter with a 28-yard field goal from Mike Turner to make it 7-3.

Oxford countered immediately and good, strong running from Glover and Sam Armstrong got the Saints close to their endzone. Armstrong entered from seven yards out for the touchdown to double their lead.

Once again, Fielden made no mistake with his kick.

Ouse Valley were making good progress in the air but were unable to get into the scoring distance before the end of the half.

The Saints made them pay for this by adding a quick score on just the second play of the next drive when the energetic Glover raced up the sideline and out-sprinted the defenders for a 54-yard touchdown run.

Another good kick from Fielden gave Oxford a comfortable 21-3 advantage.

In response, the Eagles shuffled the pack in their offense with Kase Chibwe and Byron Chowles getting the bulk of the work and they progressed up the field to the endzone for Chibwe to run in for the score.

Picture: Chris Janes

It was now 21-9 to Oxford after the Eagles failed to convert.

Chibwe and Chowles continued to be a thorn in the side of the Oxford defense with their strong running and Chibwe once again broke through for a 27-yard touchdown run to narrow the gap to make the score 21-15.

Turner had attempted to add the extra point however the ball was not set in place.

Oxford were now struggling to break down the Ouse Valley defense and the visitors took the lead for the first time, the score 22-21 after Akintunde Adewale scored a 24-yard touchdown.

The Saints continued to battle and responded superbly through Fielden who kicked the ball straight through from 34-yards out for a field goal to give Oxford the lead again at 24-22.

It was now or nothing for the Eagles who fought gallantly but the Saints held out for the win in what was a pulsating encounter.

Gray swaps black and gold for blue and yellow

Ice Hockey

OXFORD City Stars have added more strength and depth to their roster with the addition of D-man Martyn Gray, who joins the Stars from Bracknell Hornets.

The 24-year-old defensive player, originally from Wales, has spent his ice hockey career playing for three different teams and has been reunited with Oxford boss Kenny Redmond, who he worked with at Bracknell.

As a junior, Gray played out of Swindon for various teams including the Cougars, Leopards and ENL Wildcats.

In 2011, Gray featured in the NIHL North, playing for the Sheffield Senators until the 2015/16 season.

Keen to represent the Stars Gray said: "I'm excited to be joining Oxford and looking forward to working hard and hopefully having a great season.

"I'm happy to be playing for Kenny again, he's a great coach and expects a lot from his players. The fans have been great whenever I've played against Oxford, they really get behind the team."

Head coach Redmond added: "I'm delighted to have signed Martyn. He's a good 'stay at home' defenceman who battles hard in every game. He has a great attitude and wants to improve every time he's on the ice."

Stags victory in close game

Rugby League

OXFORD Rugby League went down 32-26 away at Hemel Stags over the weekend, despite leading for a large portion of the game.

Hemel started the game on the front foot and opened the scoring on three minutes.

Oxford prop Lee Land was then sin-binned and Hemel made their numerical advantage count on 23 minutes with Daniel Hawksworth going over for a try after a neat pass and the conversion followed.

The Blues then sprung into life with three tries in six minutes. First, Adam Dent squeezed in on the left-wing and Harvey Burnett successfully converted.

Jordan Gill was the next to go over on the right but Burnett missed this kick and the third from Scott Fleming and subsequent kick from Burnett, gave Oxford a 16-12 lead at half-time.

Oxford continued to dominate after the break and benefitted from a penalty that resulted in Kitson crossing for an unconverted try.

They opened up a 14-point lead when Stuart Biscomb crashed over and Burnett converted.

Hemel hit back though and Vincent kicked through the Oxford line and ran onto the ball to go over, adding the extras himself. With 15 minutes to go, two further tries meant the hosts opened up a four-point lead.

Oxford gave away a penalty and tried everything to get back in the game but Hemel held out for the win.

Eddie down and out after walking off in the rain

Golf

EDDIE Pepperell was disqualified from the storm-struck Porsche European Open in Hamburg last week.

The Abingdon man was heading for an early exit at the Green Eagle Golf Course when adverse weather halted play.

The Frilford Heath member faltered early on in the second round after a disappointing conclusion to his first-round 74.

And after an almost four-hour rain delay, Pepperell was disqualified as he decided not to return to the course – so he wouldn't miss his flight home.

The 26-year-old was one of five players to be disqualified in similar fashion at the European Tour event.

Starting on the 10th tee, Pepperell birdied his first three holes to make a flying start to competition last Thursday.

But bogeys on 17, seven, nine and a double bogey on the sixth meant he finished the opening round on two-over.

The world 334 made it to hole 14 on the second day before stormy weather struck – but his hope of surviving the cut had already evaporated following a lousy opening.

Encouraging birdies on one, three and nine were cancelled out with four dropped shots on holes eight, 10 and 11, leaving Pepperell adrift on three-over and with no hope of surviving to the third day.

Young golfers tee up great start to their careers

Junior Golf

OXFORD Golf Club attracted a diverse field of golfers from across the world and a score of young players for the British Junior Golf Tour event last Wednesday.

Thailand's Waraporn Wimonwan was successful in the 9-10 age group as she compiled a nine-hole winning gross score of 47 to nudge one ahead of Billy Wood (Wexham Park, Slough) and Jakob Venables (Broome Manor, Swindon).

Three strokes was the margin of victory in the 7-8 age group as Bicester's Jakob Payne carded 45 to finish in front of William Brennan (Wexham) and Michael Haywood (Gravesend, Kent).

All eight players in the under-six age group, including one youngster from Singapore, were rewarded for taking part by receiving family passes to watch the British Seniors Masters at Woburn in early September.

Dylan Barney (South Herts) beat Henry Saddleton (Sprowston Manor, Norwich) by one score after shooting 41.

The main 18-hole competition witnessed an outstanding round from Overstone Park's (Northampton) Mark Stockdale as the 20-handicapper fired a net 60.

Manato Nakatani (Hendon, London) took the gross plaudits by two shots from Buckingham's Huw Pearson and Belton Park's (Grantham) Alex Doig, who both carded 79.

For more details about Oxford Golf Club, based at Hill Top Road, southeast Oxford, visit oxfordgolfclub.net

Waraporn Wimonwan

Captain Nelson: 'Honour to be given the armband'

PROUD new Oxford United captain Curtis Nelson has paid tribute to his predecessor as he prepares for his new role for next season.

As reported by The Oxford Paper last week, the former Plymouth defender has taken over the armband from John Lundstram, who departed for Sheffield United last Tuesday.

The 24-year-old, who was officially confirmed as captain last Thursday, seemed an obvious replacement for Lundstram having led Argyle before making the switch to the Kassam Stadium last summer.

Nelson, who cost United more than £200,000 following a tribunal in November, said: "It's a great honour [to be appointed captain]. Lunny [John Lundstram] did a fantastic job and we all wish him well at his new club, but I am really proud to have been asked to take over as captain.

"Lunny was brilliant. He deserved everything he's got with his move and full credit to him for it.

"It won't change the way I play too much but I have always enjoyed the extra responsibility of being captain.

"To be honest we have some strong characters here and a lot of natural leaders so it makes being captain that much easier."

Nelson became Plymouth's youngest captain in nearly 46 years when he skippered the Pilgrims for the first time in April 2013, little over a month before his 20th birthday.

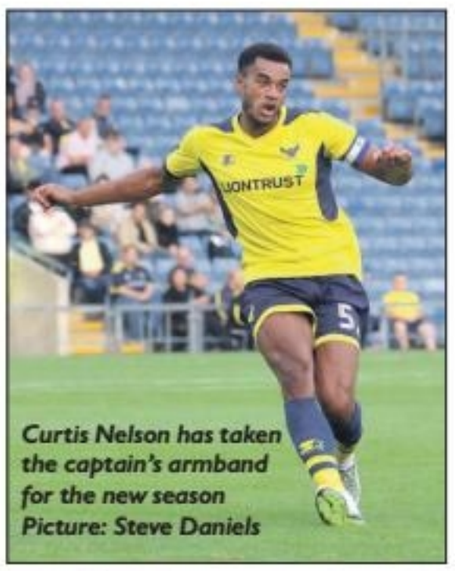
He admitted it was nice to take a step back last year but is raring to go in a role he is all too familiar with.

He said: "It was quite nice to not have to be as responsible as before – it was a nice little break but now it's service resumed.

"It's nice to be captain and be trusted with the armband."

Manager Pep Clotet had no hesitation in appointing his new captain.

He said: "He has all the qualities required. He is a strong character, he has the respect of everyone in the dressing room and I think will be an outstanding captain for this football club."



Curtis Nelson has taken the captain's armband for the new season Picture: Steve Daniels

On-loan midfielder: 'I want to play as much as I can'

Loanee Jack Payne, in his Huddersfield kit, is keen to impress

OXFORD United's latest signing Jack Payne is desperate to make his mark at his new club.

The attacking midfielder made his first United appearance as a 62nd minute substitute in a 2-0 defeat at Leeds United on Saturday.

He made his debut after signing the previous day on a season-long loan from Premier League new boys Huddersfield Town.

The U's were beaten in their last pre-season match by a fine first half strike from – inevitably – former Oxford star Kemar Roofe and an even better second half goal from Stuart Dallas.

But for new man Payne, it was his first opportunity to impress his new teammates and fans.

The 22-year-old said: "I've trained every day and featured in the games, but not played loads [at Huddersfield]."

Plenty of clubs were interested in signing the No.10 but new boss Pep Clotet was a decisive factor.

He said: "I had a good chat with the manager before I signed and he told me about his philosophy and where he sees the club going and the ambition here.

"That was the main thing but I also spoke to other people and everyone I asked only had positive things to say about the club."

Clotet added: "We've been monitoring Jack's situation for a while. I know him well and followed his progress in the Championship last season and the club also had good reports on him from his time at Southend, so we're delighted to see him joining the squad.

"He fits the profile of what we want here: exciting, talented young players who are hungry to do well, mixed with experienced professionals to help them and the side, develop."

Hoops aiming high with extra play-off place for this season

By George Welch

Oxford City

OXFORD City boss Mark Jones believes his side can make the National League South play-offs in his debut full season in charge.

Despite pre-season inconsistencies, winning three and losing four warm-up matches, Jones is keen to take advantage of an extra two play-off spots to be introduced to the division this year.

Jones, who welcomes St Albans to Oxford for the season opener on Saturday, has now had a winter transfer window (as temporary manager) and a summer window (as permanent manager) to mould a team he feels is capable of challenging at the top.

He said: "We're ambitious and we want to aim high. There are two more play-off spots available in the league so seventh place will get you in the play-offs and we've got to be aiming for that.

"There will be several teams in our league looking at that saying 'we've got a chance at the play-offs this year' but we've got to concentrate on what we're trying to do."

The Hoops finished a mixed pre-season with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Brackley Town at Court Place Farm on Saturday.

Although the Hoops had the ball in the back of the net late on, Jimmy Armson's second half strike was enough to secure victory for the visitors in a stop-start game.

Not many chances were created before the interval as Matt Paterson and Godfrey Poku provided City's most threatening play.

The second half consisted of more action and City stopper Craig Hill was beaten just before the hour mark when Armson bypassed a sleeping Hoops defence and produced a composed finish to put The Saints ahead.

Oxford had a goal disallowed before Joe Oastler struck the post with a bizarre sliding tackle and Brackley ran out 1-0 winners, not that Jones was too bothered.

He said: "We've had different challenges and I've been generally happy with the performances.

"The real stuff starts next Saturday and I'm pleased with the group of players we've been able to put together."

■ This is the first season where there will be six teams in the play-offs in the National League South/North and National League.

The league winners will earn automatic promotion while second and third placed teams will go straight into the semi final with home advantage.

Teams that finish fourth to seventh will compete in an additional play-off qualifying round.

Sky Bet League One fixtures 2017/18

Sat Aug 5 Oldham Athletic A
W/C Aug 7 Cheltenham Town H Carabao Cup One
Sat Aug 12 Portsmouth H
Sat Aug 19 Scunthorpe United A
Sat Aug 26 Shrewsbury Town H

Sat Sep 2 Milton Keynes Dons A
Sat Sep 9 Gillingham H
Tue Sep 12 Bradford City H
Sat Sep 16 Blackpool A
Sat Sep 23 Walsall H
Tue Sep 26 Bury A
Sat Sep 30 Peterborough United A

Sat Oct 7 AFC Wimbledon H
Sat Oct 14 Bristol Rovers A
Tue Oct 17 Charlton Athletic H
Sat Oct 21 Rotherham United H
Sat Oct 28 Fleetwood Town A

Sat Nov 4 Emirates FA Cup 1
Sat Nov 11 Northampton Town H
Sat Nov 18 Plymouth Argyle A
Tue Nov 21 Blackburn Rovers H
Sat Nov 25 Southend United A

Sat Dec 2 Emirates FA Cup 2
Sat Dec 9 Doncaster Rovers H
Sat Dec 16 Rochdale A
Sat Dec 23 Wigan Athletic H
Tue Dec 26 Gillingham A
Sat Dec 30 Bradford City A

Mon Jan 1 Milton Keynes Dons H
Sat Jan 6 Blackpool H Emirates FA Cup 3
Sat Jan 13 Walsall A
Sat Jan 20 Bury H
Sat Jan 27 Wigan Athletic A Emirates FA Cup 4

Sat Feb 3 Charlton Athletic A
Sat Feb 10 Bristol Rovers H
Tue Feb 13 Rotherham United A
Sat Feb 17 Plymouth Argyle H Emirates FA Cup 5
Sat Feb 24 Northampton Town A

Sat Mar 3 Fleetwood Town H
Sat Mar 10 A.F.C. Wimbledon A
Sat Mar 17 Peterborough United H Emirates FA Cup 6
Sat Mar 24 Portsmouth A
Sat Mar 31 Scunthorpe United H

Mon Apr 2 Shrewsbury Town A
Sat Apr 7 Oldham Athletic H
Sat Apr 14 Southend United H
Sat Apr 21 Doncaster Rovers A
Sat Apr 28 Rochdale H

Sat May 5 Blackburn Rovers A

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U's will be a united team pledges new boss Clotet

By George Welch

PEP Clotet is ready and raring to lead his Oxford United side out for the first time after a whirlwind first month in charge.

The U's kick off their League One campaign with a trip to Oldham Athletic in search of their first opening day three points in the third tier since 1999-2000.

Around 1,000 United fans are expected to make the 350-mile round trip on Saturday – and Clotet, eager to get the season up and running, has laid out the type of team United fans can expect to entertain them this season.

He said: "I would like to create a team, a very united team, that works together and wins, draws and especially loses together.

"I want us to be a team that understands that we will get where we want to go and the tougher the situation gets in between, the more united and supportive we have to be to the lads.

"I see a group of players giving their best for this club and we all have to push in the same direction."

Due to the timing of former boss Michael Appleton's departure to Leicester City, Clotet has had less time to prepare for the coming season compared to rival managers.

Clotet was only appointed on July 1 but the Spaniard has knuckled down and is confident his Oxford side are ready for the season opener this weekend.

Of his first month in charge, the 40-year-old said: "It's been a lot of work learning as much as I can about the players, how the team plays and how the other teams play.

"It's been really busy but enjoyable. I have a feeling that everyone here wants to crack on and do well. It's been very positive and satisfying."

Analysing last season's success, in which the club finished eighth in League One and reached the final of the Checkatrade Trophy under Appleton's guidance, Clotet is demanding a more ruthless streak from his men this time around.

His focus is to rack up more points by converting defeats into draws. "If we do this we will have an extra edge," he said.

Having worked closely with former Swansea City bosses Michael Laudrup and Garry Monk as a coach, there are no prizes for guessing what style of football Clotet is expecting from his players.

A slick, possession-based and high pressing system is the objective – but the challenge on the now not-so-distant horizon is as mentally demanding as it is physically and tactically.

Clotet is in the process of moulding a team that can play pretty football but can also learn along the way and do anything it takes to salvage points when the going gets tough.

He said: "I want a team that is able to focus 100 per cent on the game that is in hand and whatever happens in that game – whatever result comes – we are soon learning from all the lessons within the game."

Pep Clotet has spent his first month in charge learning about his players and the club Picture: Steve Daniels

Pep has his eye on more new names

OXFORD United are closing in on their 10th summer signing, but Pep Clotet is unsure whether the club can secure the deal before the season kicks off on Saturday.

Nine new faces have arrived at the Kassam so far this summer (including the permanent addition of loan player Charlie Raglan) and Clotet, the United boss, is keen to make it double figures as he pushes to strengthen his squad.

He said: "I don't know if it will be before the weekend.

"We are considering a couple of additions I think would be good for the squad because we know we are lacking a position.

"We are working very hard and we put a lot of pressure on ourselves to make things happen, but it's not always easy. It's not always up to us."

The left back slot is the most obvious missing link in the United team and a new signing in this position would allow winger Marvin Johnson, who has filled the full back role throughout pre-season, more attacking freedom.

Seven players have departed the club since the end of last season, including influential players Chey Dunkley, Chris Maguire and skipper John Lundstram, and Clotet has called for patience as his new-look outfit beds in.

He said: "You always have to be very patient. We have a good formation from last season and we have new additions that have to click.

"Giving time for the new players to come in and to adapt and for the players that we already had to understand and settle in more with the new additions is always wise."

Clotet will make a decision on his posse of triallists over the next few days.

Furdjel Narsingh, Josh Smile, Sam Shaban and left backs Raheem Hanley and Leandro Cobas-Ladrero have spent time at the club hoping to impress Clotet and secure a permanent contract.

The Spaniard is also contemplating loan deals for players on the fringes of his first team, but any temporary departures aren't likely until closer to the end of the transfer window at the end of the month.

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